TB

THE GREAT OUTDOORS

~~BIG COUNTRY~~

Written by

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TB

1 EXT. NORTH WOODS - LAKE - AFTERNOON 1

A pristine lake deep in the North Woods. It's late afternoon. Loons call. An eagle soars over the water.

MAIN TITLES BEGIN. We hear Chet's VOICE OVER. His speech has the quality and tone of documentary narration.

CHET (V.O.)
Countless millions of Americans, for years upon years...

2 EXT. LAKE - WATER'S EDGE 2

A deer drinks.

CHET (V.O.)
... have sought refuge from the harsh detachment and sterile serenity of modern life...

3 EXT. WOODS - TREE 3

A squirrel is sitting on a branch.

CHET (V.O.)
... in the honest embrace of the forest.

4 EXT. MARSH 4

A goose and her goslings paddle through the reeds.

CHET (V.O.)
They return again and again to refresh their weary souls, restore their battered faith.

5 EXT. FOREST - TREES 5

A stand of virgin pine.

CHET (V.O.)
Renew... the ties that bind. To marvel at the wonders of nature...

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6 EXT. FOREST - TREE 6

A woodpecker beats against a pine.

CHET (V.O.)
... and enjoy the boundless rewards...

7 EXT. PERK'S PINE LOG RESORT - WIDE - ESTABLISH - DAY 7

A quiet, little resort made up of a dozen quaint log lodges, a modest beach and boat dock, a raft, some fishing boats, an office, bar and game room and lots of stately pines between two of which is the Ripley family's station wagon.

8 INT. CAR 8

We meet the Ripley's. Behind the wheel is the father, CHET. He's in his late-thirties. He wears his hair in a straight business cut. Beside him is his wife, CONNIE. She's in her late-thirties. Attractive, strong and independent. In the back seat are their children. BEN, 8, and BUCK, 13. Ben is precocious, impish and somewhat detached from the normal interest of a boy his age. Buck is handsome, quiet and controlled. Chet is finishing his grand speech.

CHET (V.O.)
... of the pure and simple style of life that prevails in the Big Country.

Chet takes a moment to enjoy his speech. The rest of the family sits unimpressed and unmoved.

CLOSEUP - BUCK

Chet's speech rings a bell. He thinks for a moment, then looks at Ben.

BEN AND BUCK

They exchange looks. The speech is familiar to Ben as well.

INT. CAR - FRONT SEAT

Buck leans forward in the seat, between Connie and Chet.

(CONTINUED)

8 CONTINUED: 8

BUCK
Dad? You read that off the brochure that came with the fishing poles.

Chet clears his throat to cover his embarrassment at getting caught quoting a brochure.

CHET
So what if I did? It doesn't matter where it came from, it's true and we're going to experience every bit of it.

CONNIE
If we're going to experience every bit of it, shouldn't we get out of the car?

CHET
Absolutely. Let's go!

All four family members swing their doors open.

9 EXT. STATION WAGON - FRONT ANGLE/OVERHEAD ANGLE 9

All four station wagon doors open simultaneously -- WHAM! -- into pine trees.

CLOSEUP - CHET

He looks at Connie with a big grin.

CHET
Whoa! Trees in the parking lot! What a place! Nature everywhere you park!

10 INT. RESORT OFFICE - DAY 10

It's a small, knotty pine room with a desk, stuffed chairs, rag rugs and a fireplace over which hangs a moosehead. The fur on the moose's nose is long gone from thirty years of petting by guests and their children. A small restaurant if off to one side, a bar with a couple of old lushes nailed to the bar. Chet opens the door and peeks in. He walks in. He's overcome by a wave of nostalgia.

(CONTINUED)

10 CONTINUED: 10

CHET
Oh, for God's sake. Just like I remember it. Oooh. The moose.

He looks at the moosehead.

CLOSEUP - MOOSE

The nose is badly worn from people rubbing it and the eyes are crossed.

11 EXT. OFFICE - DAY 11

Connie and the boys are outside the office, looking around.

BEN
This is going to be a living hell.

CONNIE
Watch your mouth.

BUCK
What happened to us going to California?

CONNIE
Dad decided on Lake Potowoto...

BEN
... minimac.

BUCK
I know, but why?

CONNIE
He has his reasons and I don't think it's your place to question his decisions.

BEN
This is an extension of the working father guilt syndrome thing. Right?

CONNIE
I don't think there's anything wrong with us spending a week together at a nice lake resort.

BUCK
Did you want to come here?

(CONTINUED)

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11 CONTINUED: 11

CONNIE
Of course not. I wanted to go to California like any other normal person would.

12 INT. OFFICE - DAY 12

Chet is standing before the mounted moosehead. He raises his right hand and lifts his little finger, closes his eyes and with the other hand rubs the moose's nose. He recites a brief North Woods incantation.

CHET
Ahnaweeo, anasaugatuck, Bring this little boy a bundle of luck.

INT. BAR - DAY

Adjacent to the office. A couple of REGULARS look over their shoulders as they hear Chet CHANTING.

THEIR P.O.V.

Chet's in the lobby with his raised hand, chanting Indian jibberish, rubbing the moose's nose.

TWO-SHOT - REGULARS

They trade curious looks.

INT. OFFICE - DAY

Chet fishes into his pocket for a penny. He holds the penny in one hand, his hand is on the moose's nose.

CHET
Winna-laka-missee, bunkachu-go, To praise the great Indian Chief a new penny I throw.

He tosses the penny over his shoulder.

INT. BAR - DAY

The penny lands in the bowl of complimentary cheddar cheese fish.

(CONTINUED)

12 CONTINUED: 12

INT. LOBBY - DAY

Chet turns to see where the penny landed. He sees the regulars looking at him. He feels slightly embarrassed.

CHET
I used to do this with my dad when I was a kid. Didn't you used to do this... with... your dad? No? If you'll excuse me, I have to check in. Thanks. And sorry. Keep the change.

He offers a limp smile and strolls to the desk.

CHET
(continuing)
Hello?

There's no response. Chet peeks back into the bar.

CHET
(continuing)
I love the woods.

He smiles again. Connie and the boys enter the office.

CHET
(continuing)
Well? Is this a real North Woods lodge? Huh? Boys? Isn't this rugged? Check out the shotgun lamp over there.

Chet points out, Buck and Ben look.

THEIR P.O.V.

A shotgun that's been made into a lamp. It's standing on end with a light bulb screwed into the barrel and a small shade on the bulb.

INT. LOBBY - DAY

Chet's very proud. Buck and Ben are not terribly impressed. Chet leans over the lobby counter.

CHET
Hello?

13 INT. OFFICE - BACKROOM - DAY 13

A middle-aged man and a middle-aged woman are asleep in the stuffed chairs in a small office behind the front desk. WALLY and JUANITA MOBERT. They're snoring gently. He's in bermuda shorts, an "I'VE BEEN TO DULUTH" t-shirt, black knee socks, leather sandals and a Milwaukee Brewer's cap, Juanita is wearing a sun-dress, peds, cheap jogging shoes and a Budweiser visor.

CHET (O.S.)
Hello?

14 INT. OFFICE - DAY 14

Chet leans over the desk peeking into the backroom. He can't see Wally and Juanita.

CHET
Anybody home?

He turns back to Connie.

CHET
(continuing)
Can you imagine an unattended motel office in Chicago? No way. This is good, old-fashioned North Woods trust.

He looks down on the desk.

CLOSEUP - DESK

A little plastic powderhorn lays on a hand-printed sign that reads: "FOR PROMPT SERVICE, BLOW ME." The first three words are on one line. "BLOW ME" is below and in italics.

CHET

He picks up the horn and looks at it distastefully. He wipes it on his sleeve and shrugs.

CHET
Neat little touch, huh?

CONNIE
(unimpressed)
Charming.

Chet puts the horn to his lips and blows it softly.

(CONTINUED)

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14 CONTINUED: 14

No sound. He looks at the end of the little horn to see if it's clogged. He fills his lungs and blows with all his might. Still no sound. He puts it to his lips again and blows a third time. Suddenly, a huge, mangy, mixed-breed German Shepherd with a snout covered with porcupine quills and burrs leaps up from behind the desk and barks an inch from Chet's face.

15 INT. BACKROOM - WALLY AND JUANITA - DAY 15

They're blasted from their slumber.

WALLY
Ho!

JUANITA
Hup!

They look around. Get their bearings, realize someone's at the desk. In unison, they rock back and forward, back and forward and up and out of the chairs.

16 INT. OFFICE - THE FAMILY - DAY 16

They waddle out of the backroom.

WALLY
Howdy, folks. Don't mind Wormer. She don't care for people.
(yells to the dog)
Shut the frig up!

Wormer stops in mid-bark. Wally pulls the dog down and it retreats back to its position under the counter.

WALLY
(continuing)
Now, what can I do you folks for?

HIS P.O.V.

The Ripley's are paralyzed with fear. Frozen expressions of horror.

17 EXT. HIGHWAY - DAY 17

A Mercedes station wagon speeds along the highway.

18 EXT. CABIN - DAY - LATER 18

The family admires a beautiful log cabin. Chet pulls up behind them and gets out of the wagon. Connie's impressed. Even Buck and Ben are pleased. Wally and Juanita flank the family. They love the cabin.

WALLY
You city dwelling fools are damn lucky to have this place. It just come available this morning.

CHET
(proud)
This is a dream come true.

JUANITA
Yep. We call it the Loon's Nest.

WALLY
(to Ben)
You ever seen a loon, noodlehead?

BEN
We have one in our family.

CLOSEUP - CHET

Smiling.

EXT. CABIN - DAY

Connie steps in front of Ben to quiet him.

JUANITA
We had a fishing party in there up till yesterday. They caught their limit and blew. It's all redecorated inside. Wally and me sunk over 300 bucks into it, not counting what we spent in lysol. Beautiful. Nothing within a hundred miles compares. Not even the Holiday Inn.

Chet puts his arm around Connie and gives her a little hug.

WALLY
I think Juanita here owes me a liverwurst sandwich and a glass of buttermilk.

(CONTINUED)

18 CONTINUED: 18

JUANITA
You folks enjoy your stay.

CHET
In a place like this, how could we not?

WALLY
You could get the shits from the well water.

19 EXT. SECONDARY HIGHWAY - DAY 19

The Mercedes we saw earlier flies down the two-lane, blows its horn and whips around a slow-moving car.

20 INT. CABIN - DAY 20

The front door opens and Chet sweeps his arm. A grand introduction to the interior. Connie and the boys stare. Chet looks. His big smile fades.

CHET'S P.O.V.

The cabin is dirty and cluttered. The remains of a pizza and beer blast from the previous party is quietly molding on the tables. Newspapers, magazines, fishing gear, buckets, cans, trash bags, dust, cobwebs and rubbish. The building itself is beautiful in its own right but is obviously uncared for. It needs a good cleaning. The furnishings are straight, standard cottage sofas and chairs. Except for a large oil portrait of JFK, Elvis Presley and Vince Lombardi wearing halos.

CLOSEUP - CHET

Looks for the bright side.

CHET
Just think how much we're going to have to appreciate when we get back home!

A lame laugh.

21 EXT. LODGE - DAY 21

The Mercedes station wagon flies through the trees and grinds to a stop outside the lodge.

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21 CONTINUED: 21

CLOSEUP - DRIVER'S DOOR

It opens and we RISE to reveal pastel slacks, a yellow polo shirt with a man's hand sporting a diamond pinky ring, a gold Rolex planted on his lower belly and sleek sunglasses. The dark glasses are slowly and dramatically removed and we meet ROMAN CRAIG.

ROMAN
What a gas! Chet's gonna shit plutonium pellets! What a solid surprise!

22 INT. CAR 22

We meet his family. His attractive and chic wife, KATE, his twin nine-year-old daughters, CARA and MARA. Kate's in an expensive blouse and skirt. Cara and Mara are in sundresses embroidered with their names. Strange, withdrawn children.

ROMAN
I'll go find out where Chet's bivouacked the family.

KATE
This is very unfair, Roman.

ROMAN
What the hell are you talking about? We're family for crying out loud. Listen, how many times have we invited Chet and Connie to the Islands with us? A billion?

KATE
This is a little different. We weren't invited.

ROMAN
They'll be tickled to death to see us. What the hell is there to do up here? Fish?

KATE
I just hate to impose.

ROMAN
Impose? Don't you want to be with your sister? When was the last time you saw her?

(CONTINUED)

22 CONTINUED: 22

KATE
We talked last week. And she said she was looking forward to getting away from everything and everyone. I want to see her. I don't want to impose on her.

ROMAN
Hey, if you can't impose on your family, who the hell can you impose on?

23 INT. CABIN KITCHEN - DAY (LATER) 23

Connie's cleaning the stovetop. The kitchen has been cleaned. Chet walks in, freshly showered. He walks up behind Connie and kisses her neck.

CHET
What're you doing? Get your bathing suit on and let's go to the lake.

CONNIE
You go ahead. I can't relax in filth.

Chet turns her around and wraps her in his arms.

CHET
We'll all pitch in and clean the place tonight.

He gives her a kiss.

CLOSEUP - CHET'S HANDS

He's unzipping Connie's skirt.

CHET AND CONNIE

His persuasion isn't working. Chet is undaunted.

CONNIE
We can't even use the bathroom until someone finds the toilet seat.

CHET
Buck found it on the sunporch. You have no further excuses.

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23 CONTINUED: 23

CLOSEUP - CONNIE'S REAR END

Her skirt drops to her ankles.

CONNIE AND CHET

Connie struggles against his embrace.

CONNIE
Chet!

CHET
The kids are outside.

CONNIE
I don't care.

Chet drops the shoulder straps on her top.

CHET
Ooops!

Connie's top slips down to her waist. Chet goes for her bra.

CONNIE
Stop it!

CHET
What? I'm helping you get into your bathing suit.

CONNIE
I'll go to the bedroom, thank you.

CHET
There's no need for that. This is the North Woods. You can walk around naked as a bear and not worry about running into anybody.

24 INT. CABIN DOOR - DAY 24

The door opens and we see Roman and Kate. Kate's jaw drops in embarrassment. Roman smiles.

THEIR P.O.V.

Connie and Chet embracing.

(CONTINUED)

24 CONTINUED: 24

Her skirt's at her ankles, her blouse is at her waist and her bra's hanging on Chet's finger.

CLOSEUP - ROMAN

One of the great moments in his life.

ROMAN
Anybody home?

CLOSEUP - CONNIE AND CHET

Holding their kiss. Eyes open in horror. Turn slowly.

CLOSEUP - ROMAN

He has his Video-8 to his eye and is taping the moment.

25 EXT. BEACH - DAY 25

Buck and Ben are standing at the water's edge.

BEN
I think Dad's over-reacting to the involved father deal. I don't know anybody who sees their dad all that much.

BUCK
You know, if he'd get wise to the fact that we love him just the way he is, it'd save us all a lot of trouble.

BEN
Do you really care if he's a vast reservoir of North Woods lore?

BUCK
No.

BEN
You don't think he's going to make us sit on the porch and whittle, do you?

Wally comes toddling down the bluff to the beach.

(CONTINUED)

25 CONTINUED: 25

WALLY
Howdy, sports! See Monster Mouth yet?

Buck and Ben look at him like he's crazy. Wally cups his hand to his brow and looks out across the water.

WALLY
(continuing)
He's out there alright.

BUCK
Who's Monster Mouth?

WALLY
Fish, son. Muskellunge. Related to your pikes and pickerels, only bigger and meaner than both you boys put together.

The boys are skeptical.

WALLY
(continuing)
He's been out there for years. Nobody's caught him yet. Too smart. Plenty of you city dweller types go out there aiming to haul him in. And plenty of you die in his jaws. Brutal, old, bloodthirsty peckerhead, he is.
(sneaks a look to see if he's scaring the boys)
So, if you fellas go out there in God's pool, you make sure you take a parent or guardian along. And if they've got a weapon, remind them to bring it. I don't need to be cleaning guts up off the beach. I got plenty of other things to do.

Ben and Buck look out across the water.

WALLY
(continuing)
By the way, don't you boneheads do no diving off the dock. I don't need no lawsuits.

He winks and heads up the bluff. Buck and Ben look out across the lake.

(CONTINUED)

25 CONTINUED: (2) 25

BUCK
That was bullshit.

BEN
Absolutely.

They look out at the lake for a moment. They feel strange sensations. They look at each other.

BEN
(continuing)
Do you sense the presence of an alien life form?

BUCK
Now that you mention, I do.

They slowly turn and look down the dock.

THEIR P.O.V.

The twins stand shoulder-to-shoulder at the end of the dock.

CLOSEUP - TWINS

Blank, spooky, frozen expressions.

26 EXT. SUN PORCH - DAY - LATER 26

Chet and Roman are sitting on the porch, sipping cocktails from juice glasses.

CHET
I still can't picture you enjoying a vacation in the woods.

ROMAN
Me either. But Katie wanted to be with Connie. You know, you guys pimp us every time we invite you to the Islands. I can't resist Katie when she begs for something.

Roman stirs his drink with his baby finger. His pinkie ring clinks against the glass. He looks at Chet with a smile.

ROMAN
(continuing)
You really dig this shit, don't you?

(CONTINUED)

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26 CONTINUED: 26

Chet gives Roman a weary look.

ROMAN
(continuing)
The woods. Hunting, fishing, camping, boating, mosquitoes, gnats, raccoons, stuffed fish, pine trees, cabins that smell like piss...

Chet nods. He ignores the insulting tone.

ROMAN
(continuing)
Sand in your bed, cleaning perch, listening to bugs rubbing their legs together.
(looks at his glass)
Drinking Tanqueray out of a Jabba the Hut glass. Horseshoes, paper plates, calamine lotion, ticks, chiggers, mildew, poison oak, ivy and summack, lake weeds that wrap around your ankles when you swim...

CHET
(interrupts)
What happened to the European trip?

ROMAN
Katie wanted to do this. She was worried about the terrorism thing. Personally, I think it's a lot hippier to get blown-up in the Rome airport than it is to die of boredom in the woods. But rule number one, I run my home democratically, and Kate and the girls wanted to come up here to spend time with Connie and the boys, so here we are. I have to eat about six grand in deposits but what the hell, we're all here together and that's what matters.

CHET
(hoping against hope)
Six grand's a lot of money to throw away. Maybe you should reconsider.

(CONTINUED)

26 CONTINUED: (2) 26

ROMAN
Forget it. Money grows on trees.

CHET
I wish.

ROMAN
As far as I'm concerned, it does, but we'll get into that later. The point is, money grows on trees, good family relationships don't. Six grand is a small price to pay to see our two families together, right?

CHET
(reluctantly)
Right.

ROMAN
You bet. So, anyway, you're an intelligent man, you make a good living, you got some options, why the heck would you want to come up to this plant-infested no-man's land and live like a barbarian for a week?

Chet looks at Roman. He's stunned that Roman can so easily trash his vacation in one sentence. Roman is unaware that he's insulting Chet. He sincerely believes he's just speaking truth.

27 EXT. LAKE - DOCK - TWINS - DAY . 27

They're standing at the end of the dock staring out into the lake.

THEIR P.O.V.

The still water is suddenly disturbed as a mammoth fish leaps from the water and splashes down.

CLOSEUP - TWINS

Their eyes are wide in terror. They scream.

28 EXT. PORCH - DAY 28

Roman and Chet continue their conversation.

(CONTINUED)

28 CONTINUED: 28

CHET
You gotta admit that this is some kind of country.

Chet smiles fondly as he looks out on the lake and the surrounding forest. An unexpected moment of appreciation and sensitivity from Roman.

ROMAN
You know what I see when I look out there?

THEIR P.O.V.

The most beautiful forest imaginable.

CLOSEUP - ROMAN

He sweeps his hand across the landscape.

ROMAN
I see the underdeveloped resources of Northern Minnesota, Wisconsin and Michigan. I see a syndicated development consortium exploiting a good billion and a half dollars in forest products. Lumber, pulp, animal skins, exotic game meats, rare mushrooms, medicinal fungi, firewood. I see clearing out the prime timber, the pelts, the ducks and whatever other miscellaneous salables are out there. A paper mill and if the metals are there, a mining operation. A green belt between condos on the lake and a waste management facility, focusing on the newest rage in toxic waste, medical refuse. Infected bandages, body parts, IV tubing, contaminated glassware, entrails, syringes, blood fluids, low-grade radioactive waste. All safely contained for centuries. What do you see?

CHET
(after a pause)
Just trees, Roman. Just trees.

(CONTINUED)

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28 CONTINUED: (2) 28

ROMAN
Well, no one ever accused you of having the grand vision and maybe that's for the best, huh? While the ambitious scramble for wealth and power, the Chet Ripley's of the world are able to just casually stroll along life's path. That's a compliment because the rest of us are probably going to have strokes and die long before you.

CHET
Yeah, probably. That's what I'm hoping.
(standing)
I'm gonna stroll down life's path to the barbecue and start the hot dogs.

ROMAN
Hot dogs? No relatives of mine are going to settle for hot dogs as long as they're sharing my cabin.

29 CLOSEUP - BARBECUE GRILL 29

Lobster tails are roasting on the grill.

EXT. CABIN

Roman's tending the tails. Chet's sitting in a patio chair, stewing.

ROMAN
Did I tell you what we did last week in the Euro-currency futures market?

CHET
Probably.

ROMAN
I thought I might have mentioned how a couple of weeks ago I bought a Deutchmark contract, sat on it a week, and sold it, taking a 300% profit?

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29 CONTINUED: 29

He glances over his shoulder to see if Chet's impressed.

CHET
Easy money is money easily lost.

ROMAN
Look what I pull down a year versus what you pull down. Do you think I work any harder than you? I doubt it. You're drawing a check from a company that's cleaning up on your sweat. You're a new age slave, Chet.

CHET
I'm in the auto parts business. I've been in it for fifteen years. They've done well by me and I've done well by them.

ROMAN
You don't think the chairman of your company would sell the goddamn works if he had the chance? Auto parts is a hot business.

CHET
They're always going to need a regional manager no matter who owns the company.

ROMAN
I can't believe how dangerously old fashioned your thinking is. Companies are valuable if they can be bought and sold. If they aren't well-run, guys like me and my partner who think they can do it better, put together a financing package, pick up the company, liquidate the assets, slim the operation down and sell it to the next guy. Don't you see? If your company is a house on the market, you're the water heater. I'm an independently wealthy man who uses his brains and drive to benefit himself. You're a water heater sitting in a damp, dark basement being bought and sold without any say in the matter.

(CONTINUED)

29 CONTINUED: (2) 29

Roman's argument, while flawed, is passionate and impressive. Chet has little to come back with.

CHET
Three hundred percent profit?

ROMAN
Not every time. Sometimes it's as little as 200% and sometimes more. But you take the good with the bad. And you should have your piece, too.

Connie and Kate come out of the house with cocktails. They're laughing and having a fine time.

CONNIE
How're those tails?

She looks over the grill. Roman gives her a peck on the cheek.

ROMAN
These are killers. Twenty-eight bucks a pound.

CONNIE
Oh, my God. Chet? Twenty-eight dollars a pound! We haven't had lobster in an age. Not since our anniversary, anyway.

CHET
You never ask for it.

ROMAN
And the gourmet here wanted to eat hotdogs. You know they make those things out of lips and assholes.

CHET
I'm old-fashioned. I like assholes.

ROMAN
And I like lips.
(leans over and kisses Connie again)
Mmmn! If I could market the taste of these lips, I'd make another million.

30 INT. CABIN - NIGHT 30

The family's eating dinner at the kitchen table. As people chew, we hear the SOUND of crunching sand. The house is infested with mosquitoes.

ROMAN
I thought maybe we'd run into town tomorrow and pick up a ski boat. Sound good, guys? Uncle Roman'll blow some coin for a kick-ass drag boat?

Ben and Buck brighten. Buck slaps an insect on his leg.

CHET
I'm renting a pontoon boat.

ROMAN
Pontoon boat? What the hell do you want with a pontoon boat?

CHET
You go on lake cruises. It has a big deck, a canopy, we can anchor it and swim, we can bring the barbecue. Tour the lake in comfort.

He slaps his neck.

(CONTINUED)

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30 CONTINUED: 30

ROMAN
Do you guys want to tour the lake comfortably or would you rather skim the waves with Uncle Roman in a jet boat?

BEN
Jet boat! Sorry, Dad.

ROMAN
Atta boy! Benny's my man! You want to put this to a vote, Chester?

Roman slaps his arm.

CHET
If you want a ski boat, you get a ski boat. Buck and I are getting a pontoon boat. Right, Buck?

BUCK
That sounds kind of boring.

KATE
Are you guys going to argue or are you going to enjoy yourselves?

She slaps her cheek.

ROMAN
I'm enjoying. Chet's arguing.

CONNIE
How about if the kids go out and catch fireflies and we play cards?

She slaps her upper arm.

ROMAN
Cara? Mara? You little dolls want to go out and catch fireflies?

The twins look at Roman.

KATE
They don't like bugs.

ROMAN
What kid doesn't like bugs?
(to the twins)
They're cute. Their butts light up.

(CONTINUED)

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30 CONTINUED: (2) 30

The twins run from the table, clamber up the stairs and scream. Kate glares at Roman.

ROMAN
(continuing)
What? It's true.
(shifts gears)
To hell with fireflies. To hell with cards! Let's jump in the wagon and hit the town!

31 EXT. SMALL RESORT TOWN - NIGHT 31

The streets are bright with the neon lights of tourist traps. The sidewalks are clogged with sunburned white trash, sleazy locals and suburban families. Chet's wagon cruises slowly down the street and pulls into an open space. The two families clamber out.

CHET
Hey!

Buck and Ben stop in mid-stride.

BUCK
What?

CHET
Where're you going?

ROMAN
They're fine, Chester. Have a ball, guys. And, Buck? If it comes up, safe sex.

Buck stares at Roman. Chet glares. Chet takes the boys to one side for a fatherly lecture.

ROMAN
(continuing;
to the twins)
You want to go with the boys?

The twins cling to Kate in fear.

ROMAN
(continuing)
Why not?

KATE
(sharply)
They don't want to, Roman.
They're fine with us.

(CONTINUED)

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31 CONTINUED: 31

ROMAN
You want to stay with Daddy?

The twins pull Kate back.

ROMAN
(continuing;
to Kate)
You deal with it. I try to please them and they freak out.

KATE
Maybe if you didn't force your affection on them.

Roman pulls Kate aside.

ROMAN
(lowers his voice)
Maybe if you didn't criticize me in front of them.

KATE
I'm sorry.

ROMAN
It's been a long road getting them this far. I'm trying my best. Okay?

KATE
Okay.

ROMAN
Everything's gonna be fine.

He turns back to Chet and Connie with a big grin.

ROMAN
(continuing)
Shall we?

Connie, Kate and the girls head down the street. Roman hangs back a moment with Chet.

CHET
Everything all right?

ROMAN
(to Chet)
Oh, yeah. No big deal. The girls are just a little tired.
(MORE)

TB

31 CONTINUED: (2) 31

ROMAN (CONT'D)
I'm sure you've been through that. Yeah, we're solid. Come on. Let's go get gassed.

32 INT. RESORT ARCADE - NIGHT 32

It's like any other teen dive only dirtier and louder. Speed metal is BLASTING. Cigarette smoke hangs in the air. People are shouting. The place is jammed to the walls. Scummy locals and slumming tourist kids. Clumsy mating rituals, prancing and posing, fighting, arguing, laughing. Buck and Ben walk in.

CLOSEUP - BEN AND BUCK

This is their kind of place. A scruffy ten-year-old boy with a cigarette dangling from his lips walks by with his arm draped over the shoulders of a cute, ten-year-old tourist girl. Ben looks at Buck.

BEN
They build 'em young up here. (The women are loose)

CLOSEUP - POOL TABLE

A cue ball. A beat and it's OUT OF FRAME. We MOVE UP to...

CLOSEUP - GIRL

A heart stopper. Boyish, tough, pink lips, deep, wild tan, ripped t-shirt, indian bead and string bracelets, chipped blue nail polish. Her name is CAMMIE. She smiles at the result of her shot.

INT. ARCADE - NIGHT

At an adjacent table, Ben and Buck are playing. Ben, after great consideration and study, scratches. Buck crosses to the other side of the table and sets up his shot. Cammie crosses her table and sets up for her next shot.

CLOSEUP - BUCK

His tongue sticks out of his mouth as he focuses on the ball. He draws the cue back.

(CONTINUED)

32 CONTINUED: 32

CLOSEUP - CAMMIE

She eyes her shot.

CLOSEUP - BUCK'S CUE

It's heading for Cammie's rear end.

CLOSEUP CAMMIE'S BOTTOM

Cut-off jeans. The butt of the cue COMES INTO FRAME, inadvertently targeted for Cammie.

CLOSEUP - BUCK

slowly draws the cue back.

CLOSEUP - CAMMIE

Her eye open wide in alarm. She looks down.

HER POV

Buck's cue has gone right between her legs.

CLOSEUP - BUCK

He jerks the cue back and forth a half a dozen times as he prepares to shoot.

CLOSEUP - CAMMIE

She turns sharply.

CLOSEUP - BUCK

The force of Cammie's turn rips the cue from Buck's grip and it flies across the room. He shoots upright and turns.

CLOSEUP - CAMMIE

facing Buck, mad as hell. She jams her cue up under his chin.

(CONTINUED)

TB

32 CONTINUED: (2) 32

CAMMIE
Watch it, runt!

CLOSEUP - BUCK

He startled. His head's thrown back by the threat of the cue under his chin. He has no idea of what he's done.

BUCK
Watch what?

CLOSEUP - CAMMIE

She removes the cue from under his chin and turns away.

BUCK AND BEN

Buck's love-struck. He's motionless.

BEN
You gave her a world class goose with your pool cue, Buck.

BUCK
She's so cute.

BEN
Violent, but, yeah, cute. You got chalk on your neck.

Buck wipes the chalk off his chin, not taking his eyes off Cammie as she exits the arcade.

33 INT. BAR - NIGHT 33

Roman and Chet are at the bar. Roman's boasting about his fishing exploits.

ROMAN
I know muskie's the big deal fish up here, but you come with me to the Norfolk Canyon off the coast of Virginia and hook into a 1,000 pound blue marlin and you'll know what fishing's all about.

(CONTINUED)

33 CONTINUED: 33

CHET
Let me apologize for my brother-in-law. He gets a few cocktails in him and he turns into an expert on everything.

ROMAN
Was that a shot?

CHET
No, that was the truth.

ROMAN
That was a shot.
(to the bartender)
Speaking of shots...

Roman throws back a shot of bourbon.

HERM
(to Chet)
This guys' a riot! Everybody loves him, right?

Chet smiles grimly.

ROMAN
By the way, Herm, Maxima's now offering it's Hawaii Silver monofilament in high capacity service spools.

HERM
Is that a fact?

ROMAN
They claim it offers superior abrasion resistance and knot strength. If I'm going for a premium IGFA class monofilament, I'm always gonna go, Maxima. by the way, Herm, who's handling your investments?

33 CONTINUED 33

A MAN sits down at the bar next to Chet. He's thin and frail, coal black hair with a streak of pure white running from forehead to neck. His name's REG GRAEBEL.

CHET
How's it goin'?

REG
(stutters)
It ain't, um, um, um it ain't, um, it ain't, you know, um, raining. That's um, you know, um, n-n-n, um, good.

CHET
True. Are you in the tourist business?

REG
I'm in the ah, ah, biz, um, ness of, um, not, uh, you know, ah, um,

CHET
Insurance?

REG
Um, of, um...

CHET
Food service?

REG
Of um, not, um, not, um, dying.

Chet doesn't understand. He looks at Roman and Herm.

HERM
You fella's met Reg?

Roman reaches out his hand.

ROMAN
Roman Craig, pleased to meet you.

Reg takes his hand and gives it a firm shake.

HERM
This is Chester Ripley.

CHET
(corrects him)
Chet.

He shakes with Reg.

(CONTINUED)

ROMAN
That's a hell of a hairdo you got there, Reg. Sort of a neo-skunk thing, huh?

Chet grimaces at Roman's frankness.

HERM
His hair turned white from lightning hitting him.

Chet and Roman look at each other.

HERM
He's been struck by lighting... how many times is it now, Reg?

REG
Uh, uh, six...

ROMAN
I was hit once.

CHET
Six times?!

REG
Um, six and um, six, um, sixty um and sixty um six times, um, in the...
(taps his head)
Um, head.

Chet and Roman stare at him in disbelief.

CHET
That's gotta hurt.

HERM
You'll never meet a guy more tuned into the barometric pressure than Reg. He can sense a storm hours before it hits.

Reg smiles.

HERM
He's a little nervous lately because it's coming time for us to get whalloped by one of them storms we're famous for up here. About every six or seven years, a big front rolls down from Canada and we get creamed. That's always a bad time for Reg. You see him running like hell for home, you head for cover. Right, Reg?

Reg nods.

33 CONTINUED 33

ROMAN
You work outdoors? You a lineman, you work on a boat? Steeplejack? Roofer? You gotta be in some line of outdoor work to get hit by lightning that many times.

HERM
Yeah. Reg is an electrician.

34 INT. BAR BOOTH - NIGHT 34

Connie and Kate are talking over wine.

KATE
I'm really sorry about this.

(CONTINUED)

34 CONTINUED: 34

CONNIE
Don't be silly.

KATE
It was Roman's idea. You know how he idolizes Chet.

Connie is surprised to hear that.

KATE
(continuing)
It's true. He admires the simplicity of Chet's life.

Kate's unaware that she inadvertently insulted Chet.

CONNIE
I don't think Chet's simple.

KATE
I'm not explaining myself very well. What I really want to say is, thank you. This is very important to Roman and me. I miss you, Conn.
(pause)
It's so lonely being wealthy.

CONNIE
(chilly)
I wouldn't know about that.

KATE
I mean it. It is lonely. He works terrible hours, he travels. There've been times when we'll go a month without going to bed together.

CONNIE
A month?

KATE
Sometimes I think that if he keeps up the hours he's working, the only way I'll get any pleasure is by leaning against the washer during the spin cycle.

CONNIE
(after a pause)
Does that work?

(CONTINUED)

TB

34 CONTINUED: (2) 34

KATE
(referring to her blouse)
Have you ever seen whiter whites?

35 INT. TAVERN - BAR - NIGHT 35

Roman slides off the bar stool.

ROMAN
You pay for the drinks, I have to go to the john and introduce Mr. Thick Dick to Mr. Urinal Cake. I'll be right back.

He exits. Chet watches him go. He turns back to the bar.

HERM
(watching Roman)
Not too many guys come in here and buy drinks for the house like he does. Hell of a generous guy.

CHET
Yeah. How much do I owe you?

HERM
Sixty-two, fifty.

36 INT. BAR RESTROOMS - NIGHT 36

Roman's on a payphone outside the johns.

ROMAN
Burt? Roman. How're you doing? Good enough. Listen, I'm up in the woods so I wasn't in the office this afternoon. What's the word on the loan?
(disappointed)
I have a very big deal going down, and I need that money. You're the banker, I'm the customer. What am I suppose to do?
(pause)
You gotta come through. It could be good for all of us.

Chet crosses by. Roman covers the phone.

(CONTINUED)

36 CONTINUED: 36

ROMAN
(continuing)
Don't bother going in there. It's all blocked up. Use the ladies' room. I'll stand guard.

Chet hesitates for a moment. Roman reassures him that it's all right. He goes into the ladies' room

ROMAN
(continuing)
See what you can do, Burt. I'm counting on you. All right, we'll talk later.

He hangs up the phone. He waits a beat, hits the phone and recovers his change from the return slot. He goes into the men's room.

37 EXT. CITY PARK - NIGHT 37

A tiny patch of green in the middle of the gaudy little town. A dozen oak trees, some park benches, a flagpole and a war memorial consisting of a graffiti-covered cannon and a completely defiled plaque. It's the nightly hangout for locals and tourist kids.

EXT. PARK - CAMMIE - NIGHT

She's sitting against a tree. She reaches into her t-shirt and comes up with a pack of Marlboros. She fires one up and takes a deep draw. She looks up with a blank expression.

EXT. PARK - BUCK AND CAMMIE - NIGHT

Buck stands before her.

BUCK
You didn't give me much of a chance to apologize.

She doesn't respond.

BUCK
(continuing)
You mind if I sit down?

CAMMIE
I don't own the park.

(CONTINUED)

37 CONTINUED: 37

Buck sits down in front of her.

BUCK
I just got here. I'm from...

CAMMIE
Chicago.

BUCK
(surprised)
How'd you know?

CAMMIE
You're too thin to be from Milwaukee, your teeth are too good to be from Minnesota, you have a brain so you're not from Canada and you've got a human haircut so you're not from Iowa or Nebraska.

Buck's impressed.

CAMMIE
(continuing)
It's no big trick. You live all your life in this monkey shit town it becomes second nature.

BUCK
I guess I've met my first local, huh?

CAMMIE
You don't have any idea how local I am. It's gross, really. A world tour for me is a weekend in Green Bay.

BUCK
It's really a beautiful town.

Buck looks down the street.

HIS POV

The squalid little town with its blaring neon and station wagon traffic. It's anything but beautiful.

BUCK AND CAMMIE

He turns back from looking at the town. Cammie's looking away.

(CONTINUED)

37 CONTINUED: (2) 37

BUCK
It's...

CAMMIE
It's a hole in the earth. Look, why don't you save your breath? I'm not a whore, okay?

She stands up. Buck is dumbfounded. He stands up. She heads off across the park and disappears into the dark. Buck is left baffled and embarrassed. He looks around at the people who've watched the conversation.

BUCK
What'd I do?

38 OMITTED 38

39 EXT. CABIN - ESTABLISHING SHOT - NIGHT 39

40 INT. CABIN - NIGHT 40

Chet's building a fire in the fireplace. Buck, Ben and the twins are watching. Connie, Kate and Roman are playing Monopoly at the table.

CHET
You kids want to hear a bear story?

The kids shake their heads. Chet doesn't see.

CHET
(continuing)
Mom and I honeymooned up here. At this very same lake.

ROMAN
Big spender.

Chet flashes Roman a cold look.

CHET
We were staying at my uncle's cabin. And one night we heard a terrible racket out by the trash cans...

Chet's very much into his story. He walks over and turns off a lamp, to add to the effect of the story.

(CONTINUED)

40 CONTINUED: 40

ROMAN
Heh! We're playing here, Chet!

Kate silences him with her hand.

KATE
Shh. Listen.

Connie smiles as she remembers the incident.

CHET
I got out of bed and I looked out the window and you know what I saw? The biggest, baddest bear in the North Woods.

The twins' eyes open wide in fear.

BEN
I'm sure, Dad.

CONNIE
It's true, Ben.

Chet turns off the kitchen light. He walks back to the fireplace.

CHET
She stood about six feet tall...

A40 FLASHBACK - CLOSEUP - BEAR A40

The real bear.

CHET (V.O.)
Big white teeth...

The bear curls its lips back to revel its teeth.

CHET (V.O.)
(continuing)
... fangs, stained pink from whatever it was she killed before she got to our cabin.

B40 CLOSEUP - CHET - PRESENT B40

He continues the story.

(CONTINUED)

B40 CONTINUED: B40

CHET
Paws as big around as a catcher's mitt with black claws like knife blades.

INT. CABIN - NIGHT

Buck and Ben look at each other. If it's a bullshit story, it's a good one.

CHET
It was a terrible sight. It wasn't like a scary movie.

C40 FLASHBACK - CLOSEUP - BEAR C40

at the window.

CHET (V.O.)
It was real and all that separated me from her...

D40 FLASHBACK - CLOSEUP - CHET D40

on the other side of the window, in terror. Long, hippie hair and a tie-dyed t-shirt.

CHET (V.O.)
... was a pane of window glass!

E40 INT. CABIN - NIGHT - PRESENT E40

The twins are trembling. As Chet talks, he jams the fireplace full of newspaper and kindling. He soaks the kindling and the logs with barbeque starter fluid. He's so taken with his story, he doesn't realize how much kindling paper he's stuffed into the fireplace or how much fluid he's squirting. He uses squirts to dramatize points in the story.

CONNIE
Chet? Maybe you shouldn't talk about it. You might give the kids nightmares.

CHET
Oh, come on, hon. It's a great story.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

E40 CONTINUED: E40

CHET (CONT'D)
Anyway, I saw her and you know what? She saw me, too. And she was hungry. Hungry for blood. Human blood. Once they get the taste of it, they crave it, they need, they want it and they will do anything to get it. She had become a maneater!

The kids sit back in alarm.

CHET
(continuing)
Our eyes locked, my heart was pounding...
(slaps his fist into his open palm)
Bang! Bang! Bang! Bang!
(pause; then loud and fast)
I ran into the living room and grabbed my uncle's shotgun off the mantle. I turned and saw her face in that window. Her breath fogging the glass. Suddenly! She let out a roar that rattled the pots and pans, shivered the walls and rattled the floorboards! I knew then that it was either her or it was Mom and i. So I took aim and I fired... Kerblamm!

The kids jump at the noise.

BEN
You wasted her?

CHET
No, Benny. A shotgun couldn't kill a monster like that.

BEN
What happened?

CHET
The buckshot shaved the hair clean off the top of her head. She ran off and never came back. Every now and then...
(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

TB

E40 CONTINUED: (2) E40

CHET (CONT'D)
...we'd hear from my uncle and he'd tell us about the bald-headed killer bear that was haunting the area. The Bald-Headed Bear of Clare Country.

F40 FLASHBACK - CLOSEUP - BEAR - NIGHT F40

angry, wild and bald.

G40 INT. CABIN - NIGHT - PRESENT G40

Chet fishes a pack of matches out of his pocket.

BEN
Is she still around?

CONNIE
No, honey. This happened fifteen years ago.

CHET
She may still be out there. Crazy and blood-thirsty as ever. So, when you go to bed tonight, don't look out your window! Boo!

The kids and Roman shriek with fright. Chet chuckles. He strikes a match and tosses it in the fireplace.

41 EXT. CABIN - NIGHT 41

There's a flash inside. A column of fire erupts from the chimney and shoots thirty feet in the air.

TB

41A INT. CABIN. NIGHT (AFTER THE BEAR STORY) 41A

Roman's outside Ben's room, listening at the door.

CHET (OC)
There's nothing to be afraid of, Ben. That wasn't a true story. My father told it to me and I'm sure his father told it him. And I told it to you.

BEN (OC)
Are you sure that bear's not still around?

CHET (OC)
Positive.

CU. ROMAN

He's noting the tenderness in the conversation.

41B INT. TWIN'S ROOM 41B

The twins are in bed. Roman slips into the room. He crosses nervously to the bed.

ROMAN
(stiff, uncomfortable)
Good evening.

He sits on the edge of the bed.

ROMAN
How's it going.

Of course, no response.

ROMAN
As your father, I felt it incumbant upon me to set the record straight with regards to the validity of the tale which Uncle Chet shared with us this evening.

He gives the kids an uncomfortable smile.

(continued)

TB

ROMAN
I know that a terrifying story like that coming from the mouth of a recognized authority figure is traumatizing because I had a similar experience with my Uncle Roy and a story he told about a family that went to the woods and was attacked by a band of escaped Army psychiatric patients who'd been subjected to vicious, violent, hellish behavior modification experiments. They escaped the metal boxes that they lived in and went off into the woods and slaughtered and ate this family before they were recaptured. Now, that story gave me nightmares not to be believed and I don't want Uncle Chet's bear story to upset you in the same way. So I'm here to say there isn't a bear like that, none of what Uncle Chet said actually happened and that even if there were a bear out there, I'm in the house prepared to protect you. I love you and nothing will happen to you. At the absolute worst, and I'm not saying this'll happen but in a worst case scenerio, maybe a bear gets in the house but believe me, he'll go for the cookies and sweets before he goes for you and anyone else in the cabin. So, we're not going to think about bears or anything else unpleasant. We're going to close our eyes and dream about nice things. Okay? Super. Sleep tight.

He gets up and exits. The twins are frozen with fear.

41C

41C INT. HALLWAY

Roman backs out of the room, closing the door softly. Chet comes out of the Ben's room. He closes the door. Both men turn at the same time. See each other, jump back and yelp. Embarrassed they turn it into hacking coughs.

ROMAN
The butts. Gotta give 'em up.

CHET
Allergies.

ROMAN
Yeah, it's bad.

CHET
Good night.

(continued)

TB

41 C (contd)

ROMAN

Yep.

They march manly and tall to their respective rooms. A beat and the twins and Ben bolt from their rooms screaming, running for their parents.

41D INT. CABIN. NIGHT 41D

Everyone's asleep. Roman's sitting in the living room, smoking a cigarette, thinking. The only light is that coming from outside security lights.

CU. ROMAN

Deeply troubled. Worried thought. The bravado and confidence he has in the day is gone with the night. The bullshit is gone and all that remains is trouble and concern.

42 and 43 OMITTED 42 and 43

44 EXT. CABIN - KITCHEN DOOR - NIGHT 44

A family of RACCOONS waddles up to the cabin. Their chirps are translated in subtitles.

MOTHER RACCOON
New people on the Loon's Nest.

(CONTINUED)

TB

44 CONTINUED:

BABY RACCOON
Illinois plates.

MOTHER RACCOON
If they're from Chicago, we'll be eating good.

EXT. CABIN PORCH - NIGHT

The garbage cans. The mother raccoon climbs up on the can and knocks it over.

EXT. CABIN - NIGHT

The raccoons tear into the garbage bags.

MOTHER RACCOON
Lobster tails!

BABY RACCOON
A shitload of raw hotdogs!

MOTHER RACCOON
Watch your mouth.

BABY RACCOON
Excuse me.

45 EXT. LAKE - MORNING 45

Placid and peaceful. The sun rising on the still water.

46 INT. KIDS' BEDROOM - BOYS - DAY 46

splayed out on their sleeping bags.

47 INT. KIDS' ROOM - TWINS - DAY 47

In their monogrammed pajamas, clutching blankets, sucking each other's thumbs.

48 INT. ROMAN'S ROOM - DAY 48

He's asleep on top of Kate.

TB

49 INT. CHET'S ROOM - DAY 49

Connie's sleeping. Chet's not in bed.

50 EXT. CABIN - DAY 50

Chet's in his p.j.'s and robe with a cup of coffee. He's standing in the midst of the carnage of the raccoon attack. Wally waddles past, walking Wormer.

WALLY
If you don't put a rock on top of the cans, the raccoons are gonna get your refuse every time, you city dwelling potato head.

51 INT. BATHROOM - DAY 51

Roman's standing at the sink. He has a portable cellular phone. The base unit is on the toilet tank. The handpiece is cradled between his shoulder and his jaw. Kate's in the shower.

ROMAN
Is Jerry Asmuth in? This is Roman Craig. Yeah, I can hold but not too long, I'm up in God's Country and my signal's weak.

As he waits on the phone, he trims his nose hair.

ROMAN
(continuing)
Honey? Chet's kids look at him like he's Zeus. Mine look at me like I'm a rack of yard tools at Sears.

INT. CABIN HALLWAY OUTSIDE THE BATHROOM - DAY

The twins are looking in the bathroom.

THEIR POV

Their father is in his undershorts, trimming his nose, talking on the phone.

ROMAN
Why can't they connect me?

(CONTINUED)

TB

51 CONTINUED: 51

INT. BATHROOM - SHOWER - DAY

Kate's washing her hair.

KATE
Maybe if you spent a little less time on your work and a little more time with us, things would be different.

INT. BATHROOM - DAY

Roman covers the phone.

ROMAN
Honey? Put a cork in it for a minute, I'm talking business.
(to the phone)
Jerry? Roman. I'll save us both a lot of trouble and cut right to the chase. I have an investment opportunity you won't believe. Do you have three minutes and twenty-five grand?
(pause)
Jerry?

He looks at the phone to see if he's lost the signal. He sighs with defeat. Kate pokes her head out of the shower.

KATE
Did you hear what I said?

ROMAN
I lost the signal... Damn phones.

KATE
Maybe he hung up on you.

ROMAN
Why would our minister hang up on me?

52 EXT. BOAT YARD - DAY - LATER 52

A small boat yard specializing in sales and rentals of ski and fishing boats.

(CONTINUED)

INT. OFFICE - DAY

Chet, Roman and the boys are in a small office with a grubby man in his fifties. He's the OWNER. Roman's going over the rental papers.

OWNER
She's brand new this season. I don't want you neglecting her.

ROMAN
Insult me one more time and I'll take my business elsewhere.

Roman slides the papers to Chet.

ROMAN
(continuing)
Agreement looks kosher, Chet, sign it, pay the man and let's go skiing.

CHET
I'm paying for it?

ROMAN
You said you were renting a boat.

CHET
I wanted to rent a pontoon boat.

ROMAN
They don't have one.

CHET
So, why do I have to pay for a boat I don't want?

Roman takes the papers from Chet.

ROMAN
You kids want it, okay. I'll be more than happy to pay for this boat.

He takes out his wallet.

ROMAN
(continuing)
My kids are too young to ski but if you want me to rent your kids a boat, fine.

(CONTINUED)

TB

CHET
Wait a minute. I'll split it with you.

ROMAN
That's what I love about you, Ripley. You only go half-way. Have you ever gone the whole distance on anything.

CHET
Yes, I have. I said I'd split it with you, so, let's split it.

He pulls out his wallet and yanks his credit card out. He hands it over to the owner.

ROMAN
Personally, I think splitting costs is cheap and petty. I'd rather pay the whole damn thing myself than get into counting pennies with you all week.

CHET
Don't worry about it. I'll pay for it.

ROMAN
I'll be more than happy to cover it.

CHET
I said I'll pay for it.

ROMAN
Fine. Let me give you a hundred bucks so you won't gripe if I want to take the boat out by myself.

CHET
No.

ROMAN
I insist.

CHET
I said, no.

ROMAN
Please.

CHET
All right.

52 CONTINUED: (3) 52

Roman's shocked that Chet has accepted.

ROMAN
Again, we're dealing with peanuts. What the hell's a hundred bucks? Do we really want to nitpick? No. I'll be out front.
(to the boys)
Come on, guys.

He shepherds the boys outside, leaving Chet to wonder if he's been taken.

53 EXT. BOAT YARD - DAY 53

An 18 foot cigarette boat. A nasty, dangerous-looking speed boat. Bright red with orange flames and garish hot rod lettering on the side -- SUCK MY WAKE.

CHET AND ROMAN

Roman's delighted. Chet's unsure.

ROMAN
We'll be scraping bugs off our teeth with this baby, huh?
(to Buck and Ben)
Come on, we'll hit the guy up for a free tank of gas.

He heads for the boat. Ben follows. Buck hangs back with Chet.

BUCK
Dad?

CHET
That's too much boat.

BUCK
Dad?

CHET
Yeah?

BUCK
Would you mind if I hung around town? I'll walk back when I'm done.

(CONTINUED)

53 CONTINUED: 53

CHET
Don't you want to ride in the boat?

BUCK
I kind of want to hang around. It's been a couple of days since I hung around anywhere.

CHET
You have to promise me that when you get back, we'll spend a little time together. That's the whole point of the trip. You and me. And Ben. Us. The guys. The woods. Men. Bonded, tight, close and manly.

BUCK
Dad?

CHET
Yeah?

BUCK
Can I go?

CHET
Yeah, sure. Maybe you can meet some guys in town. Bring 'em back and I'll take 'em for a spin in the boat.

BUCK
Sure, Dad.

Buck starts to walk away.

CHET
You got money?

Buck nods and heads down the road. Chet walks over to the boat. Roman's been watching Chet and Buck.

ROMAN
That's a shame.

CHET
What's that?

ROMAN
I knew you were alienating the kid with all that crap about fathers and sons.

54 EXT. BEACH - SAME TIME - DAY 54

Connie and Kate are in their bathing suits, sitting in beach chairs playing Scrabble.

CONNIE
Gee, the twins have been awfully quiet. Are they having a good time?

KATE
I'm sure they are. They've always kept pretty much to themselves.

55 thru 67 OMITTED 55 thru 67

68 EXT. BEACH - WATER - DAY 68

The twins are knee deep in the water, staring out into the lake.

UNDERWATER VIEW

We see their little ankles and calves from a fish's point of view.

EXT. BEACH - DAY

Connie and Kate turn their attention from the twins back to their game.

KATE
Roman says they'll talk when they have something to say.

CONNIE
Obviously you've discussed it with your pediatrician.

KATE
He says not to worry.

Kate changes the subject.

KATE
(continuing)
I wonder what's keeping Chet and Roman?

TB

CONNIE
Does Roman know anything about boats?

KATE
Not as much as he thinks he does.
(to the twins)
Come on, you 'fraidy cats! You can swim!

She turns back to the game. Behind her we see a mammoth fish leap out of the water. Monster Mouth.

EXT. WATER - TWINS - DAY

They look at each other in terror. They scream.

69 EXT. CITY BOAT LAUNCH - DAY 69

Chet backs the boat down the launch. He stops and gets out of the car. Roman and Ben get out.

ROMAN
What's the problem?

CHET
I want to make sure I'm doing this right.

ROMAN
You back it in until it floats. It's not that hard.

Chet climbs into the boat.

CHET
You back 'er in, I'll start 'er up.

Roman gets in the wagon and starts backing up. He eases the boat slowly into the water.

CHET
(continuing)
Keep it coming!

ROMAN
How far into the water do you want me to drive the car?

69 CONTINUED: 69

CHET
Don't worry about it! It's paved all the way in.

ROMAN
It's no sweat off my back. It's your car.

Roman continues backing up. The boat takes to the water and floats.

CHET
Ho! Take 'er up!

Roman pulls the car forward. The trailer comes up out of the water.

70 EXT. LAKE - BOAT - DAY 70

Chet starts the engine. It takes a couple of tries and then catches.

71 EXT. BOAT LAUNCH - DAY 71

Roman pulls all the way up to the top and gets out of the car.

ROMAN
Got it?

72 EXT. LAKE - BOAT - DAY 72

Chet waves his arm. He's revving the engine.

73 EXT. BOAT LAUNCH - DAY 73

Roman cups his hand and yells to Chet.

ROMAN
You're in neutral!

74 EXT. LAKE - BOAT - DAY 74

Chet waves Roman away. He turns around in the seat and watches behind him. He guns the engine, and puts it in gear. The boat leaps forward and grinds up the boat launch. It rolls on its side with the engine howling and the prop spinning.

75 EXT. TOWN - SAME TIME - DAY 75

Buck's walking the streets of the town. He's aimlessly cruising. He checks out every girl that passes. He's looking for Cammie.

76 EXT. DRIVE-IN RESTAURANT - DAY 76

Cammie's in a perky uniform carrying a tray. She sets it on the window of a family sedan. She collects the due and returns to the restaurant.

77 EXT. ACROSS THE STREET FROM THE RESTAURANT - DAY 77

Buck's across the street. He's spotted Cammie. He darts across the street.

78 INT. RESTAURANT 78

A BUZZER goes off. The cook yells to Cammie.

COOK
Cammie! Stall six!

79 EXT. RESTAURANT - DAY 79

Cammie comes out counting her tips. Her head's ducked.

EXT. STALL NUMBER SIX - DAY

Buck's standing in the stall, pretending he's holding a steering wheel. Cammie walks to the stall and looks up, expecting a car. Buck smiles at her.

She plants her hands on her hips. She can't help but smile.

BUCK
What's good?

CAMMIE
Where do I put the tray?

BUCK
From the way you talked to me last night, you can probably think of a couple of good places.

CAMMIE
I'm sorry about that.
(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

TB

CAMMIE
I was in kind of a bad mood. But that doesn't mean that I didn't mean what I said. For the most part, it's true.

BUCK
You don't know that it's true of me.

CAMMIE
It's a safe assumption.

BUCK
I just borrowed this car and I have to get it back. How late do you work?

CAMMIE
Five.

BUCK
Where'll you be tonight?

CAMMIE
Around.

BUCK
Can I see you?

Cammie doesn't want to answer. She doesn't want to get involved. But she does want to see him.

CAMMIE
If you can find me.

80 EXT. LAKE - DOCK - DAY 80

Chet and Ben are on the dock with the water skis. Chet's fully clothed. Ben's in his swim trunks and life belt.

BEN
Dad? I'll figure it out.

CHET
Are you so experienced that you can't take a few pointers from someone who knows?

Ben sighs.

TB

81 EXT. LAKE - BOAT - DAM 81

Roman, Connie, Kate and the twins are in the boat. It's idling. They're looking back at the dock.

82 EXT. DOCK - DAY 82

Chet's in the skis on the dock.

CHET
You bend your knees so you absorb the shock of the waves. Right? Your knees are your shock absorbers.

Ben nods wearily.

CHET
(continuing)
You keep your weight back. Right? And if you get in trouble, let go of the rope.

BEN
Yep.

83 EXT. LAKE - BOAT - DAY 83

No one knows what Chet's doing.

84 EXT. DOCK - DAY 84

Chet continues his lesson.

CHET
Any questions?

BEN
What if I get tired?

CHET
And you want to stop?

Buck nods.

CHET
(continuing)
Your stop signal is the same as your start signal.

BEN
What's that?

(CONTINUED)

TB

84 CONTINUED: 84

CHET
Just raise your hand, and remember, when in doubt, let go of the rope.

BEN
Thanks, Dad. Here, hold this.

Chet takes rope.

CHET
Alright. A lot of people get in trouble if they don't let go of the rope.

Chet raises his arm to swat a fly.

85 EXT. DOCK - DAY 85

Chet drops to his ass and flies off the dock.

BEN
Let go of the rope!

86 EXT. LAKE - END OF THE DOCK - DAY 86

Chet flies OVER CAMERA.

87 EXT. LAKE - DAY 87

He splashes down and is ripped across the lake.

88 EXT. DOCK - FROM THE END OF THE SHORE - DAM 88

A smoking strip runs from Ben to the end of the dock.

89 EXT. LAKE - DAY 89

The boat roars past. Chet follows, holding his shredded ass.

90 EXT. BOAT - DAY 90

Everyone cheers him on.

CLOSEUP - CHET

He's scared to death.

(CONTINUED)

TB

90 CONTINUED: 90

CLOSEUP - ROMAN

He cuts the boat hard to the left.

91 EXT. LAKE - DAY 91

Chet jumps the wake and slingshots alongside the boat.

CLOSEUP - CHET

He's holding on for his life.

92 EXT. LAKE - DAY 92

The boat cuts back around. Chet jumps the wake again and switches sides on the boat.

93 EXT. BOAT - ROMAN - DAY 93

wind slapping his face.

ROMAN
He's doing great!
(blows his HORN)
What a maniac! No one told me he could be a pro!

He cuts left again.

CLOSEUP - CHET

Horror.

HIS POV

He's heading for another boat. It veers out of the way at the last moment.

94 EXT. LAKE - DAY 94

Chet hits the other boat's wake and sails into the air. He nearly loses it as he touches down. His ass slaps the water.

CLOSEUP - CHET

He's screaming at the top of his voice.

(CONTINUED)

94 CONTINUED: 94

CHET
Stop! Stop!

CLOSEUP - ROMAN

He turns back.

CONNIE
Look at him! He's laughing! It's nice to see him relaxed for a change!

ROMAN
Look how much fun he's having, and he wanted a pontoon boat.

CHET'S POV

He edges closer to the shore. He's dangerously close to the docks.

CLOSEUP - CHET

Every nerve in his body is tingling.

95 EXT. LAKE - DAY 95

The boat makes a hard turn. Chet jumps the wake again and loses one of his skis.

96 EXT. SWAMP - DAY 96

Deep in the reed. We hear the BOAT approach. Suddenly, Chet rips through the reeds. Chet's screams overwhelm the sound of the engine as he streaks past.

SKI'S POV

Through the reeds and the stumps and the lilypads and the slime.

CLOSEUP - CHET

He closes his eyes, consigned to death.

97 EXT. LAKE - DAY 97

The boat executes another sharp turn and comes away from the shore. Chet flies out of the reeds.

TB

98 EXT. CHET'S DOCK - DAY 98

The boat sails past, turns and slingshots Chet into the shore. He releases the tow and glides into the shallows.

CLOSEUP - CHET

He sinks to his knees. He's catatonic.

99 EXT. LAKE - BOAT - DAY 99

Everyone applauds him. Roman gives him a heartfelt salute.

100 EXT. ANOTHER BOAT 100

The occupants join the applause.

101 EXT. SHORE - DAY 101

People gathered along the shore applaud.

CLOSEUP - CHET

still staring. Not quite convinced he's alive.

102 EXT. SHORE - DAY 102

Ben charges into the water.

BEN
Dad! That was incredible!

Chet falls forward into the water.

TB

102A

102A EXT. CABIN

Roman has docked the boat and is putting away the ski gear. He's examining a water ski. He notes that the back of the ski is curved up. He looks at the second ski. Same thing. He stows the skis under the porch and turns to see Wally and the twins.

WALLY
I got a couple things to gnaw over with you, Roman. First, somebody got the water patrol all cheesed off, hot rodding on water skis all over the lake.

ROMAN
That was my brother-in-law and I apologize on his behalf.

WALLY
And B. I found your youngsters inside the mine perimeter.

ROMAN
What mine?

WALLY
Got an old mica mine on the other side of the property. Alot of bore holes, sink holes, pits, caves, hollows, you know. The war shut the facility down and it never reopened. The state don't want to fill the holes, the Feds don't give a crap and they throw up barbed wire and leave it. There could be dynamite, blasting caps, poison water, you never know what's left behind in a mine. I do 'cause I had a cousin worked there. Kids get in there and yell into them holes and hear the voices echo and I won't tell what teenagers do in there but I don't need the grief of some kid buying a trip north on a cloud.

ROMAN
Girls? Off limits on the mine shafts, huh?
(to Wally)
Thanks.

TB

WALLY
And you'll talk to Ripley?

ROMAN
Done.

Wally exits. Roman looks at the twins.

ROMAN
Why don't you two head inside and take a nap.

The twins stare at him.

ROMAN
You still take naps don't you?

They shake their heads, no.

ROMAN
I guess I gotta catch on my videotapes of you guys.

103 INT. MASTER BEDROOM - DAY 103

Chet pulls his suitcase out from under the bed. He opens it. It's nearly full. He's so angry, he's unaware that he's unpacking instead of packing. Connie comes in.

CONNIE
Chet?
(see that he's packing)
What are you doing?

(CONTINUED)

103 CONTINUED: 103

CHET
I'm not taking any more of Roman's crap. If you like him, you stay with him. I'm through.

CONNIE
What's happened that's gotten you so crazy?

CHET
How about Roman dragging me all over the goddamn lake in my clothes? Have you seen my ass?

CONNIE
Not recently.

CHET
Well, I'll be picking splinters from it until the day I die!

CONNIE
What about the kids?

CHET
The kids? I think his kids are spooky. I'm waiting for them to rotate their heads and vomit pea soup.

CONNIE
I mean our kids.

Chet shoves a shirt in a drawer.

CHET
Honey, he's driving me nuts. We came up here to be together and have a little fun. Who invited him, anyway?

CONNIE
Maybe if Roman's family was more like ours, he'd want to spend his time with them alone. We're lucky. Why don't you try to be a little more compassionate towards him?

CHET
Honey, he's an asshole.

(CONTINUED)

103 CONTINUED: (2) 103

CONNIE
You know it, I know it, he probably knows it. Come on. You're a big man and a nice man. You're above this.

She kisses him.

CHET
You always do this to me.

CONNIE
I know.
(kisses him again)
I'm glad you lost your temper.

CHET
Yeah?

CONNIE
Yeah. You finally unpacked your suitcase.

She gives him another kiss and exits, leaving Chet with an empty suitcase. He's not quite certain how it got that way.

103A EXT. LODGE AREA. DUSK. 103A

The two families are crossing the grounds to the lodge. Chet leads the way. Roman carries the rumaki.

CHET
The man is 109 years old today and I think the least we can do is drop by and wish him a happy birthday.

ROMAN
We got a shot to see a female Elvis impersonator in White Water and you want to wish happy birthday to a man you never met?

CHET
If you want to go to White Water, go ahead. I'm more interested in paying my respects to a man who's had the courage to last on this earth 109 years.
(to the kids)
He's the oldest man in Canada. Isn't that something?

There's no response from the kids.

CHET
We'll dance, we'll have a drink and we'll party down with the real people.

ROMAN
Personally I'd rather see a 46 inch bust singing "Love Me Tender".

They walk into the lodge.

104 EXT. LODGE- EVENING. 104

Cars are parked everywhere. People are entering the lodge. MUSIC is playing.

105 INT. LODGE- NIGHT. 105

A large knotty pine ballroom. A bar at one end, a local Deejay at the other. Jammed with locals in their best duds.

106 OMITTED 106

TB

107 INT. LODGE. LATER. 107

Chet and Connie are slow dancing.

CHET
Do you remember where you first heard this song?

CONNIE
No.

CHET
Oh, come on. In college. My dorm room. Parent's night.

CONNIE
That was Leader of the Pack.

CHET
I don't think so.

CONNIE
A girl remembers what song was playing the moment she lost her virginity.

CHET
Then where do I remember this song from? I have the sweetest memory of it.

CONNIE
Kate's wedding reception.

CHET
That's right. The band was playing it when the bartender slugged Roman for robbing his tips.

He gives Connie a squeeze and smiles from ear to ear.

CHET
I love this song.

ROMAN AND KATE

They're dancing, having similar memories about the song.

ROMAN
I put in a twenty and took back fifteen in change.

(CONTINUED)

107 CONTINUED: 107

KATE
It doesn't matter anymore, Roman.

ROMAN
Everytime I hear this song, I think of that goddamn bartender slandering me.

KATE
He didn't slander you, he chipped your tooth.

ROMAN
And I never sued him. I could have won big, too. That money invested at ten percent over twenty years...

108 INT. LODGE. OLD MAN 108

The twins are standing in front of the old man. Staring at him. Buck and Ben come up behind them.

BUCK
Happy Birthday, sir.

There's no response.

BEN
He's probably hard of hearing.

BUCK
(louder)
HAPPY BIRTHDAY.

No response.

109 INT. LODGE. WIDE 109

The song ends. There's a round of applause and another tune begins.

Roman is offering his rumaki around the room.

INT. BAR- CHET AND WALLY

Chet's nursing a drink.

CHET
(to Wally)
What's the bear dump situation?

(CONTINUED)

109 CONTINUED:

WALLY
We got a good one. One of the best in the state, actually.

Roman comes over and joins them.

ROMAN
These hicks are gobbling up my rumaki like there's no tomorrow.

CHET
Hicks?

ROMAN
What do you want me to call them? German industrialists? I say hick with affection.

CHET
I was just talking to Wally here about the bear dump. What do you say we run the kids over there?

Roman stares at Chet like he's lost his mind.

ROMAN
What the hell for? To watch bears eat rubbish? That sounds about as amusing as stirring roofing tar with your pecker.

CHET
The kids always seem to like it.

ROMAN
If they don't know about it, they'll never miss it. Unless you shot your mouth off already.

Chet doesn't respond.

ROMAN
(to the bartender)
Room charge to Ripley.

Chet gives him a look. He reaches into his pocket and pays cash for the drinks.

An up-tempo tune begins (LAND OF A THOUSAND DANCES).

ROMAN
(to Kate)
You wanna give it a whirl?

KATE
It's too fast for me and these shoes.

ROMAN
How 'bout you, Con. Wanna ride old Uncle Roman's knee? It's a joke, Chester.
(to Connie)
Come on.

He takes her hand, leads her out on the dance floor. Chet doesn't like it. Kate looks at him and smiles.

INT. LODGE DANCE FLOOR- ROMAN AND CONNIE

dancing.

INT. LODGE BAR.

Kate and Chet watch the dancing from the bar.

KATE
You hate him, don't you?

CHET
Me? No. Not at all. What would make you think a thing like that?

KATE
He thinks you do.

CHET
Well, that's his problem.

KATE
He's only trying to do right.

INT. LODGE DANCE FLOOR - NIGHT

Roman and Connie are dancing.

INT. LODGE - KATE AND CHET

They're continuing their conversation.

KATE
He really likes you, Chet. I know that sounds odd, but it's true.

CHET
What's he like about me, Kate? He knocks everything I do.

KATE
I don't know. He says he likes you.

CHET
I can't think of one thing about me that Roman could possibly like.

KATE
He talks a lot about your income.

110 INT. LODGE DANCE FLOOR 110

Roman and Connie are ripping up the place.

111 INT. LODGE. OLD MAN. 111

The kids are still trying to talk to the old man.

BUCK
Sprechen Sie Deutsch?

Chet walks up. He puts his hand on the old man's shoulder.

CHET
Sir, my sincerest congratulations.
(to the kids)
Did you wish Mr. Tompkins a happy birthday?

BUCK
About six hundred times. He must be deaf or something.

CHET
I'll tell you what, I'd like to get a snapshot of you guys with Mr. Tompkins.
(to the old man)
Would you mind, sir?

There's no response.

INT. LODGE. BAR

Wally and Juanita are at the bar. Wally sees Chet talking to the old man. He pokes Juanita. She looks.

THEIR POV

Chet has the kids positioned around the old man. He's putting the twins on his lap.

WALLY AND JUANITA

Wally's worried. He leaves the bar to join Chet.

KATE

She's at the other end of the bar. She's watching the dance floor. A tinge of sadness on her face.

HER POV DANCE FLOOR

TB

111 CONTINUED: 111

Roman and Connie are having a ball.

112 INT. LODGE- CHET 112

He's fiddling with his camera. Wally walks up to him.

CHET
Go easy on him, girls. He's old.
(to Wally)
Hey, Wally. You look sharp in your suit and tie.

WALLY
The pants are running up the butt something fierce but I'll get by. Listen, Chet, I don't like them youngsters crawling all over Mr. Tompkins like that. He ain't a jungle gym.

CHET
They're being real gentle. They're sweet kids. This is marvelous what you're doing here for the old guy.

WALLY
Yeah, but I don't want them kids messing him up.

CHET
Buck? You and Ben squeeze in real close there.

OLD MAN

The twins are resting on his knees. Buck and Ben are bending down, almost cheek to cheek with the old geezer.

BUCK
Dad! Hurry up!

CHET AND WALLY

Wally's very nervous about the photo. Chet's having trouble framing the picture properly.

CHET
Hold your horses, Buck.

WALLY
Ripley, hurry up with your picture and get them kids away from Bill.

(CONTINUED)

112 CONTINUED: 112

CHET
He doesn't mind.

WALLY
No, but I do.

CHET
Why do you mind?

WALLY
Because I got a big party going on here and I'm doing real good with the bar sales and the boys from the newspaper are here covering it and ther's lots of good publicity.

CHET
What does that have to do with me taking a picture?

WALLY
Me and Bill got a secret that would spoil everything if word of it got out.

CHET
Excuse me. Buck! Get in a little closer. Girls! Closeer.

OLD MAN AND KIDS

Chet lines up the shot.

CHET
Girls! Give him a little kiss!

WALLY
You don't want them to do that, Chet.

CHET
Aw, it's fine. It's cute. What old man doesn't like a kiss from a little girl ?

WALLY
A dead one.

CHET
Huh?

WALLY
Bill died in the car on the way over here.

(CONTINUED)

112 CONTINUED: 112

Chet freezes. The music ends.

113 OMITTED 113

114 OMITTED 114

115 INT. LODGE DANCE FLOOR 115

Roman and Connie end the dance with Roman's knee jammed between Connie's legs. She dismounts him as if his leg were a saddle.

ROMAN
How the heck did that happen?

He laughs and puts his arm around Connie.

ROMAN
You're the greatest, Con.

Chet and Kate have missed the end of the dance. Ben and the twins have joined them.

BEN
Dad, can we go? If one more old lady kisses me, I'm gonna puke.

Roman and Connie return.

ROMAN
That was a good workout.

CONNIE
I'm exhausted.

CHET
Connie? I think we're ready to head for the dump.

CONNIE
Don't let the kids get out of the car.

CHET
You're sure you don't want to come along?

Roman puts his arms around both women.

ROMAN
We'll keep your seat warm.

Connie throws Chet a kiss. He sighs and exits.

TB

116 EXT. BEAR DUMP - NIGHT 116

Half a dozen scraggly bears are rummaging through a heap of fresh trash. A semi-circle of parked cars rims the dump. The bears go about their filthy foraging in the light of a dozen sets of car headlights.

117 INT. CHET'S WAGON - CHET 117

Chet's at the wheel.

(CONTINUED)

117 CONTINUED: 117

CHET
Will you look at the size of those huge guys? I'll bet you're scared, huh?

Chet looks over and sees Ben trying to dial in a RADIO station. He looks over the seat. The twins are sound asleep in the back.

CHET

He breathes an annoyed sigh.

CHET
Come on, kids, look at the bears. Geez, we drove all the way out here.

Ben looks up.

BEN
They're great, Dad.

He goes back to the radio. Chet drums his fingers on the steering wheel. He gets an idea.

CHET
Benny? Look in the glove compartment and see if there are any candy bars left.

Ben groans and looks in the glove compartment. He pulls out a wrinkled paper bag (travel food) and looks inside. He hands it to Chet. He reaches inside and pulls out a Zagnut.

CHET
(continuing)
Watch this, guys.

Chet opens the car door.

BEN
Dad!

CHET
It's all right, watch.

118 EXT. CAR - NIGHT 118

Chet gets out of the car.

119 EXT. DUMP - BEARS 119

They look around at Chet.

120 EXT. CAR 120

Chet opens the candy bar and tosses it to the bears.

121 EXT. DUMP - BEARS 121

The bears fight over the candy bar.

122 EXT. CAR 122

Chet opens another candy bar and lays it on the hood of the car right below the windshield.

BEN
Dad!

Chet jumps in the car as the bears approach the car.

123 INT. CAR 123

Chet slams the door and looks over at Ben.

CHET
We'll get a good look at these guys now.

They all lean forward as one of the bears tongues the candy bar off the front of the hood.

CHET
(continuing)
Is this exciting or what? Look at the size of those teeth.

A bear lumbers up on the hood.

CHET
(continuing)
Oh, no! The paint! No!

Chet knocks on the glass with his knuckle in a pointless attempt to get the bear off the hood. Another climbs up.

CHET
(continuing)
Get off there! Go on! Shoo!

(CONTINUED)

TB

123 CONTINUED: 123

Ben leans back as the bears ignore Chet and come closer.

HIS POV

One bear tongues up the candy bar below the windshield. Then it looks in the window. The other bear joins him.

124 INT. CAR - CHET AND BEN 124

They're terrified. Out the side windows, more bears have appeared.

THEIR POV

The bears are clawing the windshield, trying to get the candy bar. It draws a paw back and pounds the windshield.

125 INT. CAR 125

Chet quickly starts the engine.

CHET
Seen enough?

BEN
Yep.

CHET
Good.

Chet starts the car.

126 EXT. DUMP 126

Chet slowly backs out of the semi-circle with two bears on his hood, and one on the roof and several more on either side.

127 INT. ANOTHER CAR 127

Another family of bear-watchers is looking at Chet's car with the bear on the hood.

THEIR POV

Chet gives them a smile as he backs out of the circle. As if he doesn't have bears all over his car.

128 EXT. DUMP 128

Chet puts the car forward and pull ahead. The bears are still on the hood. The car is scratched and the windows streaked with bear slobber.

129 INT. CAR 129

Chet's trying to look around the bears as he pulls forward.

BEN
Dad? I think it's illegal to drive with a bear on your hood.

130 EXT. DUMP 130

Chet's car is driving in a big, wide circle with the irate bears on the car and others walking alongside.

131 EXT. HIGHWAY - NIGHT - LATER 131

The station wagon approaches and passes. We see the bear that was on the roof is still there.

TB

132 INT. CAR 132

Chet's frinning.

CHET
Was that a thrill and a half?

He sneaks a glance at Ben, to see if he approved.

BEN
It was reckless and insane, Dad.

CHET
Only for a moment.

BEN
Is this something you'd rather not have Uncle Roman know about?

CHET
Probably. Only because he's a little yellow inside, you know. He talks big but it was a good thing he didn't come tonight. He would ha ve been scared to death.

BEN
He was a fighter pilot, wasn't he?

CHET
Nobody every actually saw hin fly.
(changes the subject)
Hey! Did you hear that noise?

BEN
What noise?

CHET
That big thump!

BEN
I didn't hear anything.

Chet glances back at the twins.

CHET
You know what? I'll bet one of those bears jumped on the back of the car!

Ben rolls his eyes.

133 EXT. TOWN - CARNIVAL - NIGHT 133

Buck's wandering through the crowds at the carnival in town. He's searching for Cammie.

CLOSEUP - BUCK

He's worried he won't find her. He looks around. No Cammie anywhere.

134 INT. LODGE - NIGHT 134

Roman, Kate, Connie, Wally and Juanita are bombed. They're singing a slurry, acappella version of "It's Only Make Believe." The party's over.

135 EXT. CABIN - NIGHT 135

The station wagon pulls in through the trees. Once again, Chet gets the car stuck. He has to back up and try again.

136 EXT. LODGE - NIGHT 136

Roman, Connie and kate stumble out of the lodge.

ROMAN
Hey! Hey! It's Chester and the Auto Parts Bears!

All three laugh.

137 EXT. CAR - NIGHT 137

Chet's standing at the scratched and dirty car, watching the drunken trio stagger through the trees.

CHET
Come on out, guys.

The kids pile out. Chet closes the door and walks to the cabin. We see that the bear is still on the car roof.

138 INT. CABIN - SUN PORCH - NIGHT 138

Chet's sitting at the table, playing solitaire. The women are in the bedrooms cackling with laughter as they get the kids ready for bed. Roman's in the bathroom. He stumbles out of the bathroom and weaves to the porch and slumps down in a chair.

ROMAN
Run over any bears?

Chet stares at him.

ROMAN
(continuing; turns serious)
Let me discuss something with you. Seriously. Let's set aside the clowning around and the bear jokes and talk serious. We go back quite a ways, don't we?

CHET
A little too far for my tastes.

ROMAN
Come on, you don't mean that. We're very tight for in-laws, aren't we? I'm very proud of the relationship we have. Anyway, pal, while the girls are inside, I wanted to run a few things by you. Money.

(CONTINUED)

138 CONTINUED: 138

CHET
I don't want to talk about money with you, Roman.

ROMAN
It's important, Chet.

CHET
Not to me.

ROMAN
Well, it is to me and I need to talk about something with you... Something that will pull you down some coin.

He drops the subject as Kate and Connie stumble out.

ROMAN
(continuing; to Chet)
Later.

CONNIE
Chet, honey? How are the bears?

CHET
Just fine.

KATE
Chet? Are you mad that we didn't go with you?

CHET
No. We had a good time.

Connie looks at Roman and Kate.

CONNIE
We should have gone.

Roman and Kate break up.

CONNIE
(continuing; to Chet)
What'd you do?

Chet sets the cards aside. He brightens at their interest.

CHET
It was great.
(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

138 CONTINUED: (2) 138

CHET (CONT'D)
You know those candy bars we brought to eat in the car? I put a couple on the hood. And the bear came right up and ate them.

ROMAN
(mocking him)
No!

CHET
He sure did.

ROMAN
Were you scared?

CHET
I'm not finished. The damn bear liked the candy bars so much...

ROMAN
What kind?

CHET
Zagnut.

ROMAN
Ooo! They're good. Would you put one on the hood for me?

CONNIE
I don't want candy bars. I want real food.

KATE
Roman?

ROMAN
I've got some Gulf shrimp in the frig.

CHET
One of them was right up on the windshield.
(makes a fist)
He drew his big, old paw back and...

They get up and leave Chet with his story untold.

139 EXT. DOCK - NIGHT 139

Chet walks to the end of the dock. We hear the CACKLING of Kate, Connie and Roman fading in the distance. Chet leans against a piling and stares out across the lake. He feels a complete failure.

140 EXT. CABIN - NIGHT 140

Buck walks up the road from the lodge.

141 EXT. DOCK - NIGHT 141

Chet's looking out across the water.

BUCK (O.S.)
Dad?

Chet turns. Buck walks down the dock to Chet.

BUCK
(continuing)
What're you doing?

CHET
Just enjoying the night air.

BUCK
Oh.

CHET
How was your night?

BUCK
It was okay.

CHET
You don't want to elaborate?

BUCK
Not particularly.

CHET
You want to go out in the boat?

BUCK
In the dark?

CHET
We'll take the rowboat and just go out and look at the stars. Sound like fun?

BUCK
Not really.

142 EXT. CABIN - NIGHT 142

The bear that rode back with Chet is sniffing around the station wagon. He still wants the candy bar.

143 INT. CABIN - NIGHT 143

Kate staggers to the stairs. Connie fumbles to her room.

KATE
Roman? Take the trash out before you come to bed. I don't want to wake up with the place smelling like shrimp.

ROMAN
Chet'll do it. He likes doing that sort of thing.

KATE
Just do it.

Roman staggers into the kitchen.

144 EXT. CABIN - NIGHT 144

The bear is up on his hind legs, trying to get his paw through the vent window.

145 EXT. PORCH - NIGHT 145

Roman walks out with a trash bag. He lifts a rock off the top of one of the garbage cans and dumps the trash inside. He puts the lid back on and turns as he hears the bear.

ROMAN
Chet?

HIS POV

The bear standing at Chet's car. His shape looks vaguely human. To Roman's blurred and futzed senses, it looks like Chet. Unsteady, IN AND OUT OF FOCUS.

146 EXT. CABIN - NIGHT 146

Roman stumbles down the porch.

ROMAN
Let's talk, huh?

147 EXT. LAKE - NIGHT 147

The rowboat's sitting out in the lake. We hear Chet and Buck.

(CONTINUED)

147 CONTINUED: 147

CHET
Beautiful sky. We don't have this kind of sky at home.

BUCK
Yeah, we do, we just can't see it. The buildings are hiding it.

148 EXT. BOAT - NIGHT 148

Buck and Chet are sitting at opposite ends of the boat, heads looking back at the stars. A big flashlight is resting upright on the middle bench seat of the row-boat. It throws a shaft of light into the sky.

CHET
Someday maybe you'll be bringing your kids up here.

BUCK
Maybe.

The conversation dies. Buck has something on his mind.

BUCK
(continuing)
Dad?

CHET
Yeah?

BUCK
I'm kind of wrestling with a concept and maybe you can help me out.

CHET
I'll do my best.

BUCK
What do you do when you find something that you really sort of love and you know you have to leave in a week?

CHET
Is it a living thing?

BUCK
Yeah.

148 CONTINUED: 148

CHET
First of all you have to take care of it. You have to make sure you poke enough holes in the lid of the jar you have it in. I had this same conversation with Ben and the toad he found. Then you have to feed it flies or bugs or worms or whatever it eats. And you have to give it water and clean the jar from time to time.

BUCK
My question was more about what do you do when you have to leave.

CHET
You have to let it out of the jar. You can't take it home, if that's the next question. It wouldn't be fair. Everything has its place and your creature's place is here.

BUCK
I really like her, Dad.

CHET
Sure you do, and that's alright, but... It's a her?

BUCK
Yeah.

CHET
Don't you have to look in their rear ends with a magnifying glass?

BUCK
What?!

CHET
How do you tell the sex of a frog?

BUCK
She's not a frog, Dad. She's a girl.

Chet freezes.

CHET
You met a girl?

(CONTINUED)

148 CONTINUED: (2) 148

BUCK
Yeah.

CHET
Why'd you let me go on about jars and bugs and air holes?

BUCK
I understood what you were getting at.

CHET
Oh. Well, it still applies. Not the bugs and worms but how you have to deal with a person you meet on a trip. She can't come home with you and you can't stay here. It's easy to get your heart broken and to break hers if you're realistic about the situation and honest with each other.

BUCK
Maybe.

CHET
You think about it and come to your own conclusions. You have my two cents but the decision's yours.

BUCK
Thanks, Dad.

CHET
No problem.

Chet leans back and smiles at Buck. Buck smiles. Feels slightly embarrassed.

BUCK
What?

CHET
One day you're little Bucky with the G.I. Joe's and the next you're with girls.

BUCK
This shouldn't be a surprise to you, Dad, this has been happening to people for a million years.

(CONTINUED)

TB

148 CONTINUED: (3) 148

CHET
I know, but it hasn't been happening to me and you for a million years. I want to give you something.

BUCK
Dad, please do not kiss me in a boat under a full moon.

CHET
Forget the kiss. I want to give you my ring.

BUCK
Why?

CHET
Because my dad gave it to me and now you're grown up and I want to give it to you.

Chet removes a ring from his finger. He hands it to Buck. He examines it.

CHET
(continuing)
We'll get it resized when we get back home.

BUCK
What about Ben?

CHET
I'll give him something when he's old enough.

BUCK
Us coming up to the woods is like your father bringing you up to the woods. That makes sense, I guess.

He hands the ring back to Chet.

Chet leans forward to take it. The boat rocks with the sudden shift in weight distribution. Chet falls to his knees.

CLOSEUP - BUCK'S HAND

The ring flies out of Buck's hand.

(CONTINUED)

TB

148 CONTINUED: (4) 148

CLOSEUP - WATER

The ring splashes down in the water.

EXT. BOAT

Chet grabs the flashlight and shines it in the water.

CHET
Shoot!

149 thru 153 OMITTED 149 thru 153

A154 UNDERWATER A154

The ring sinks.

B154 CLOSEUP - CHET B154

looking over the side of the boat. Yet another defeat.

154 EXT. WOODS - CLOSEUP - BEAR - NIGHT 154

A male black bear.

CLOSEUP - ROMAN

Drunk, slurry.

EXT. WOODS - BEAR AND ROMAN - NIGHT

They're sitting on a fallen tree. Roman's talking to the bear thinking it's Chet. Roman's winded.

ROMAN
You move pretty good for a guy who doesn't work out.

The bear GRUNTS.

ROMAN
(continuing)
Bless you.
(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

154 CONTINUED: 154

ROMAN (CONT'D)
Anyway, getting back to what I was saying on the porch before, in my opinion, you're a little too conservative with your cash.

The bear SNORTS.

ROMAN
(continuing)
Have you been eating raw hot dogs again? Your breath could seduce a swarm of flies off a manure pile.

He reaches into his pocket for his Binaca spray.

ROMAN
(continuing)
Open up.

CLOSEUP - BEAR

It opens its mouth as Roman's hand comes INTO FRAME with the mouthwash spray. A couple of short blasts in the mouth.

EXT. WOODS - ROMAN AND THE BEAR - NIGHT

Roman puts the Binaca back.

ROMAN
If you give me twenty-five grand, in six months I'll have a hundred for you. Sound good?
(sniffs)
You're taking this wilderness thing a bit far, aren't you? I can't imagine Connie going to bed with you smelling like you do.

The bear GROWLS.

ROMAN
(continuing)
Don't get your nipples in a twist, I'm just pointing something out. If you want to smell like a goddam bear, it's fine with me.
(continues)
There's an immediate opportunity coming up and if we're going to move, we have to move fast. What do you say?

(CONTINUED)

154 CONTINUED: (2) 154

The bear knocks Roman to the ground. He picks himself up.

ROMAN
(continuing)
Hey! What's the big idea? If you don't want to invest, just tell me, don't go smacking me when I'm not looking! You just cool off, pal. I'm going back to the cabin. I suggest you do the same. We'll talk when you learn to channel your aggression a little better.

He storms off. The bear watches him go.

155 INT. MASTER BEDROOM - NIGHT (LATER) 155

Buck and Ben are in bed. There's a KNOCK on the window. Buck sits up. There's another KNOCK. He climbs out of bed and walks cautiously to the window. Another KNOCK. He nervously takes the drape in his hand and yanks it open. It's Cammie. Buck's startled. He yanks the drape shut. He looks at himself in his underwear. He grabs his pants and throws them on.

156 EXT. CABIN - NIGHT 156

Buck climbs out his window. Cammie helps him.

BUCK
What are you doing here?

CAMMIE
You didn't find me.

BUCK
I couldn't.

There's an uncomfortable pause in the conversation.

BUCK
(continuing)
So what should we do?

157 EXT. LAKE - BOAT - NIGHT 157

The rowboat's afloat in the middle of the lake. Bobbing gently.

TB

158 INT. BOAT - NIGHT 158

Cammie and Buck are in the boat.

CAMMIE
When do you go back to Chicago?

BUCK
Four days.

CAMMIE
You know, I've never had a boyfriend for longer than two weeks. That's why I was such a dick to you the first night. And that's why I don't understand what I'm doing with you here.

BUCK
I've never really had a girlfriend. Honest. I've dated girls, but I've never had one I'd call a girlfriend.

CAMMIE
What would you call me?

Buck looks at her and smiles.

BUCK
Girlfriend.

CAMMIE
And you're leaving in four days. See what I mean?

BUCK
Yeah.

CAMMIE
Well? So what's it mean?

BUCK
Life is tough?

Cammie leans forward and kisses Buck.

159 EXT. CABIN - NIGHT 159

Lights off. Everyone's asleep.

160 EXT. PORCH - NIGHT 160

The Raccoons return to the back porch and the garbage cans. Once again, their CHIRPS are translated.

(CONTINUED)

TB

160 CONTINUED: 160

MOTHER RACCOON
Look at that. A rock on top of the can. The oldest trick in the book.

BABY RACCOON
Mom? Do I have to be a raccoon when I grow up. I hate working nights.

MOTHER RACCOON
Don't be ridiculous. Your father worked nights -- before he got hit by that truck. Your grandfather worked nights, and you'll work nights. You're nocturnal, and that's final. Now, get up there, and knock that rock off!

161 thru 163 OMITTED 161 thru 163

164 EXT. GO-CART TRACK - DAY 164

A scummy go-cart track and driving range. MUSIC COMES UP.

EXT. TRACK - BUCK

He's in a go-cart flying around a turn.

EXT. TRACK - BEN

He's right on Buck's tail.

EXT. TRACK - CHET

He's racing with the boys.

165 EXT. DRIVING RANGE - ROMAN - DAY 165

He tees up a ball and drives.

166 EXT. TRACK - DAY 166

Chet, Ben and Buck zipping around a turn. Chet takes the lead.

TB

167 EXT. DRIVING RANGE - ROMAN - DAY 167

He tees up another ball. Takes a swing. A massive slice. The ball sails the sideline fence.

168 EXT. TRACK - FINISH LINE - DAY 168

The carts coming into the home stretch, heading for the finish.

EXT. TRACK - CHET

He edges past Buck to take the lead. He looks over his shoulder as he passes him. He looks back. A look of shock.

HIS POV

Roman's golf ball hits the track and takes a hard bounce INTO CAMERA.

CLOSEUP - CHET

grabs his face after being struck by the ball.

EXT. TRACK

Chet's go-cart flies across the finish line and drills into the wall of trees surrounding the track.

169 EXT. WOODS - RIDING TRAIL - DAY 169

Roman, Buck, Ben, Connie, Kate and the twins cross on horseback. Beautiful forest trail. Calm, old trail horses.

EXT. TRAIL - DAY

Chet's alone on the trail. His horse refuses to move. Chet looks up ahead.

HIS POV

The other riders disappear around a bend.

(CONTINUED)

TB

169 CONTINUED: 169

EXT. TRAIL - DAY

Chet slaps his horse on the rump.

CLOSEUP - HORSE

It turns and tries to bite Chet.

CLOSEUP - CHET

He rears back to avoid a bite. He climbs down off the horse.

EXT. TRAIL - DAY

Chet tries to pull the horse down the trail. It resists completely. Chet yanks and pulls. The horse nips at him. He threatens to punch the horse. It nips again. Chet's furious. He walks over to a sapling and pulls a branch off.

CLOSEUP - HORSE

looks back over his shoulder.

HIS POV

Chet approaches with the branch.

CLOSEUP - HORSE

turns back and takes off.

EXT. TRAIL - DAY

Chet's left on the trail with the branch in his hand.

170 EXT. STABLE - DAY 170

Roman, Connie, Kate and the twins, Buck and Ben are sitting outside the barn sipping soft drinks. They're waiting for Chet. Roman sees him and points.

THEIR POV

Chet staggers out of the forest covered with burrs, soaked with sweat, streaked with dirt.

TB

171 INT. DRIVE-IN - CAMMIE - DAY 171

She's sitting on a stool picking at her sneakers. She's dejected and sad. A BUZZER goes off. She groans and slides off the stool.

172 EXT. DRIVE-IN - DOOR - DAY 172

Cammie comes out and stops.

EXT. DRIVE-IN - BUCK AND CAMMIE

Buck's at the door waiting for her.

BUCK
What time are you off?

CAMMIE
Nine.

BUCK
I'll meet you at ten.

CAMMIE
Where?

BUCK
I don't know. I'm not from around here.

CAMMIE
The bait shop.

BUCK
I'll buy you some worms.

CAMMIE
You won't ditch me?

BUCK
Why would I ditch you?

CAMMIE
I'm just waiting for it to happen.

BUCK
If I ditch you, you have my permission never to speak to me as long as the both of us shall live.

Cammie kisses him.

BUCK
(continuing)
Thanks.

173 EXT. RESTAURANT - NIGHT 173

Paul Bunyon's Cupboard. A seedy tourist trap with a giant Paul Bunyon and Babe his blue ox standing guard over the parking lot.

174 INT. RESTAURANT - NIGHT 174

Loud, bright and North Woods garish. The motif is Paul Bunyon and everything in the place is over-sized. Big tables and chairs, six inch tall salt and pepper shakers, foot long forks and knives. Waitresses in excess of six feet tall, basketball player busboys, a seven foot tall bartender.

175 INT. RESTAURANT - CHET'S TABLE - NIGHT 175

Chet, Connie, Ben, Buck, Kate, Roman and the twins are at a huge table. The adults look like children with their feet dangling above the floor, the children look like infants. A towering WAITRESS is taking their orders.

CHET
I'll have the Royal Canadian Mounted Barley Noodle Beef Soup to start, the Bucket of Salad and the Medley of Perch.

WAITRESS
Alrighty.

ROMAN
(refers to menu)
Miss? What's the Old '96er?

WAITRESS
That is our world famous Paul Bunyon's Blue Ox steak. It is a 96 ounce prime, aged beef steak. And if you or any member of your party orders the Old '96er and finishes, everybody eats for free.

ROMAN
(to Chet)
Wanna go for it?

CHET
We're fine, thanks.

She leaves the table with a spunky smile.

(CONTINUED)

175 CONTINUED: 175

ALTERNATIVE DIALOGUE

WAITRESS
(to Chet)
Grapefruit or tomato juice?

CHET
Neither, thank you.

WAITRESS
It comes with dinner.

CHET
No thank you.

WAITRESS
It's very good for you.

CHET
No thank you.

WAITRESS
Tomato?

CHET
I don't care for...

WAITRESS
I'll bring it and if you don't like it, you don't have to drink it. Just try a little.

Connie intercedes to avoid an argument.

CONNIE
He'll have the tomato juice.

(CONTINUED)

TB

175 CONTINUED: (2) 175

CHET
(to Roman)
You're sure you brought your wallet?

ROMAN
(appealing to the women)
There he goes again.
(pulls out his wallet)
Accusing me. I don't know how much more of this character assassination I can take.

CONNIE
Chet?

CHET
I'm just checking, honey.

ROMAN
I have never once in my life questioned your integrity, Chet. And it cuts me pretty deep that you question mine.

Chet feels bad.

CHET
Sorry.

ROMAN
I hope so, Chester. I'm hurt.

He puts his arm around Kate.

ROMAN
(continuing;
I think we're all hurt.
(to the twins)
Girls? Are you hurt?

They look at Roman and SHRIEK.

ROMAN
(continuing;
to Chet)
From the mouths of babes, Chester.

176 EXT. CABIN - NIGHT 176

The Raccoons waddle up the porch steps. They stop.

(CONTINUED)

TB

176 CONTINUED: 176

THEIR POV

The garbage cans are gone.

RACCOONS

puzzled. More translation.

BABY RACCOON
Where're the garbage cans?!

MOTHER RACCOON
He probably put them in the cabin.

BABY RACCOON
Garbage in the cabin?

MOTHER RACCOON
They're not the cleanest species on the face of the earth, you know. It's not a problem. We'll just have to break in.

BABY RACCOON
Can we do that?

MOTHER RACCOON
Why do you think we have these wonderfully articulated fingers? To scratch our asses?

177 INT. RESTAURANT - FAMILY - NIGHT 177

Dinner is over. The check has come. Chet's looking at it. He happily hands it across the table to Roman.

CHET
Your treat, right?

ROMAN
Absolutely, Chet.

He takes out his wallet. The Waitress cruises by. Roman hands her his American Express card.

WAITRESS
We don't take credit cards.

Roman looks across at Chet.

(CONTINUED)

177 CONTINUED: 177

CHET
Looks like you'll have to pay cash.

ROMAN
(worried)
I don't have any cash.

CHET
Don't look at me. I didn't bring my wallet. There's no way I'm getting stuck with your treat.

ROMAN
I never stuck you with anything in my life.

CONNIE
Chet wouldn't let me bring my purse.

CLOSEUP - WAITRESS

She eyes the proceedings with annoyed suspicion.

CLOSEUP - ROMAN

He's truly worried.

ROMAN
Chet? We can't pay the bill.

CLOSEUP - CHET

He shrugs. He's delighted.

CLOSEUP - ROMAN

He looks up at the Waitress.

ROMAN
I wonder if you'd let me run home and get some cash.

CLOSEUP - WAITRESS

A cold stare. A long pause. She turns back and calls.

WAITRESS
Jimbo?

178 INT. KITCHEN - NIGHT 178

The biggest, meanest, baddest man in the world, JIMBO, steps out the swinging door to the kitchen. He's wearing a bloody meat apron. He's holding a cleaver.

CLOSEUP - ROMAN

turns and looks. The blood drains from his face as he sees Jimbo.

CLOSEUP - CHET

His smugness turns to fright as he looks at the beast in the kitchen door.

CLOSEUP - ROMAN

He turns back to Chet.

ROMAN
Chet? I have an idea.

CLOSEUP - CHET

He doesn't know what Roman's getting at.

179 INT. RESTAURANT - MEAT LOCKER - NIGHT 179

A heavy refrigerator door. A sign reads... "HOME OF THE OLD '96ER." The door slowly opens on a room filled with icy mist. The mist clears to reveal, with great drama, a single, massive steak hanging from a hook in the center of the locker.

180 OMITTED 180

181 CLOSEUP - GRILL 181

The giant four inch slab of meat slams down on the hot grill. The grill shudders under the impact.

182 CLOSEUP - BUCK 182

He's worried about the time. He looks at his watch.

INSERT - WATCH

It reads 8:45.

183 CLOSEUP - CLOCK 183

It reads 8:45.

EXT. DOCK - BAIT SHOP

Cammie's sitting on a cooler on the porch. She looks up at the rusting beer company clock.

184 CLOSEUP - THE OLD '96ER 184

Hot off the grill, bubbling and CRACKLING and massive.

185 INT. RESTAURANT - TABLE - CHET 185

The Old '96er is sitting before him. A crowd is gathered around the table. Chet is stunned by the size of the steak. He looks at Connie as if he's going to be put to death. He looks at the kids. Buck gives him the thumbs-up. Roman opens a packet of Sweet 'N Low into his coffee. Chet picks up his knife and fork. He takes a deep breath and makes the initial cut into the steak. The crowd leans forward as Chet brings the first bite to his mouth. He opens and consumes. The war has begun.

CLOSEUP - CHET

He's chewing the bite, slowly and with some effort.

186 INT. RESTAURANT - LATER 186

Chet has his jacket off, sleeves rolled up. The crowd hasn't diminished but has relaxed.

CLOSEUP - STEAK

It's half-finished.

CLOSEUP - CHET

weary, tired and certainly full. He brings a bite to his mouth. He holds it before his open mouth. A long beat.

CLOSEUP - JIMBO

He smiles thinking Chet's had it.

(CONTINUED)

TB

186 CONTINUED: 186

CLOSEUP - CHET

He puts the bite in his mouth and continues.

187 EXT. DOCK/BAIT SHOP 187

Cammie's still waiting. She looks at her watch again.

188 INT. RESTAURANT 188

Chet's sitting back in his chair. Roman is rubbing his bulging belly.

ROMAN
Don't give up, big guy.

Chet groans. Roman puts his head to Chet's belly and listens.

CLOSEUP - ROMAN

He's disturbed to hear what appears to be SCREAMS.

CLOSEUP - BUCK

looks at his watch.

INSERT - WATCH

It reads 9:32.

INT. RESTAURANT - CHET AND ROMAN - NIGHT

Roman attempts to bolster Chet with a key fact.

ROMAN
If you fail, we still owe the dinner tab plus $141.50 for the steak. I have a feeling if this Jimbo guy gets stiffed on the bill and his big steak, he'll beat up the wives and rape us.

Chet leans forward, falls on his elbows. He grabs his knife and fork.

(CONTINUED)

TB

188 CONTINUED: 188

CLOSEUP - CONNIE

She's afraid Chet might split open.

CLOSEUP - STEAK PLATE

All that remains is a one-inch square bite and a ribbon of fat. The fork spears the last bite.

CLOSEUP - CHET

He's nearly catatonic. Sweating like a Coke bottle in Nevada in August. Roman brings the fork up to his mouth.

ROMAN
Open up, pal! Come on. Here comes the airplane! Open the airport! It's a nice little Lear jet with the Chairman of the Federal Reserve on board. Open wide.

Chet looks up at Roman with bloodshot eyes. His mouth drops open. Roman puts the piece in his mouth. And closes it.

INT. RESTAURANT - NIGHT

As Chet chews, Roman walks over to Jimbo.

ROMAN
I think that does it.

JIMBO
He's not done yet.

ROMAN
He may take a while on that last bite but it'll go down.

JIMBO
That ain't the last bite.

ROMAN
Sure it is. All that's left on the plate is a bunch of fat.

Jimbo smiles. Roman leans back in alarm. His eyes shift to Chet.

TB

189 EXT. RESTAURANT - LATER 189

The door flies open and Chet staggers out to the applause of the other diners. The family comes out behind Chet. The kids are wearing big lumberjack hats. Chet's wearing a T-shirt... "I ATE A '96ER." He wanders to the car and leans against it. He sucks in the night air. Connie comforts him. Roman slaps him on the back.

ROMAN
I was just talking to Jimbo and here's the kicker, Chet. They don't take credit cards but they do take personal checks. I could have written a check for the whole thing.

CLOSEUP - CHET

He looks up at Roman. He wants to kill. He curls his lip and snarls.

190 EXT. DOCK - NIGHT 190

Cammie's given up on Buck. She sighs and slides off the cooler.

CAMMIE
Never again will I do this to myself. They get what they want and they're gone.

191 EXT. CABIN - NIGHT (LATER) 191

Roman's car pulls up in front of the cabin. Buck gets out and runs to the dock. Roman gets out. Connie, Kate and the twins get out. Chet's door opens and his legs drop out. He bellows in pain.

192 EXT. DOCK/BAIT SHOP - NIGHT 192

Buck runs down to the dock. He stops as he sees Cammie's gone.

BUCK
Shit!

193 INT. CABIN - NIGHT 193

It's dark. The back door opens. Roman's helping Chet in the door. He flips on the light.

(CONTINUED)

TB

193 CONTINUED: 193

ROMAN
Holy Jesus!

THEIR POV

The Raccoons have broken into the house and torn the garbage bags open. There's rubbish all over the kitchen.

A194 INT. BUCK'S ROOM - NIGHT A194

He's laying in bed feeling miserable about missing Cammie.

194 EXT. CABIN - NIGHT 194

It's dark. Lights out.

195 INT. CABIN - LIVING ROOM 195

Something's flying around the room. A furious FLUTTERING noise.

196 INT. BEDROOM - NIGHT 196

Connie and Chet in bed. There's a SCREAM from the next room. Chet leaps out of bed, slams into the nightstand, howls with pain and grabs his foot.

197 INT. LIVING ROOM 197

Kate bursts out of the bedroom. Roman flies out after her.

ROMAN
What's the matter?!

KATE
It touched me!

ROMAN
Twenty years it's been touching you and you never freaked out!

KATE
Not you! A thing!

(CONTINUED)

TB

197 CONTINUED: 197

Chet stumbles into the room. The kids stumble out. Connie flips on the lights.

ROMAN
What thing?

KATE
(screams)
That thing!

CLOSEUP - BAT

flies INTO CAMERA.

198 EXT. CABIN - NIGHT 198

Everybody scrambles out of the cabin, screaming and shivering with fear and revulsion. Once safely outside they calm down.

ROMAN
Jesus, Marie. It's a little tiny flying mouse. It's not a grizzly bear.

KATE
I'm not going back in there until you get it out.

A199 & 199 OMITTED A199 & 199

200 INT. CABIN - NIGHT 200

Roman and Chet peek in the door. They listen carefully, determine that it's safe and scamper across the living room to Roman's room. They slam the door shut. They rummage around in the room.

201 EXT. CABIN - NIGHT 201

The families wait outside.

KATE
Bats carry rabies, don't they?

CONNIE
Among other things.

TB

204 CONTINUED: 204

INT. LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Roman smacks Chet in the head. A clean, hard blow that knocks Chet off his feet. The basket goes flying.

205 EXT. CABIN - NIGHT 205

Roman emerges from the cabin with the stunned bat laying on his racket. He pulls off the pantyhose. (APPLAUSE)

ROMAN
Killer forehand!

Roman comes down off the porch. He flips the bat in the air and whacks it into the woods. He holds his arms open. Kate hugs him.

CONNIE
Where's Chet?

ROMAN
He doesn't have the stomach for this sort of thing. He's probably in the bathroom wretching.

206 INT. CABIN - BATHROOM - NIGHT 206

Chet's standing at the mirror staring at his face and the red wicker pattern on his cheek. He reaches in his mouth and wiggles a loose tooth. Buck pokes his head in the door.

BUCK
Dad? You can come out now, it's okay. Uncle Roman creamed the bat.

Chet stares at him.

BUCK
(continuing)
It's alright, Dad. It scared the crap out of me, too.

He exits. Chet turns back to the mirror. Once again done in and humiliated by Roman.

207 thru 211 OMITTED 207 thru 211

202 INT. CABIN - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT 202

The bedroom door opens and Chet walks out followed by Roman. They are wearing bed sheets with slits torn in the middle. Makeshift ponchos. Chet has a wicker waste basket over his head with a slat torn for his eyes. Roman's wearing pantyhose over his head. Socks on their hands. They're armed with tennis rackets.

CHET
You go to one end, I'll go to the other.

ROMAN
Check.

They cautiously separate and take positions at either side of the room. They search for the bat.

CHET
Where is he?

ROMAN
Hiding. Turn off the light.

CHET
Why?

ROMAN
They're nocturnal. Maybe he thinks it's daytime.

Chet turns off the overhead light. The room falls dark.

203 EXT. CABIN - NIGHT 203

The family watches from outside.

CONNIE
What's going on?

ROMAN (O.S.)
He's playing hard-to-get.

CHET (O.S.)
There he is!

The SWISH of a tennis racket and the CRASH of glass.

CHET (O.S.)
(continuing)
You get him?

TB

206 INT. CABIN. BATHROOM 206

Chet's standing at the mirror staring at his face and the red wicker pattern on his cheek. He reaches in his mouth and wiggles a loose tooth. Buck pokes his head in the door.

BUCK
Dad? You can come out now, it's okay. Uncle Roman creamed the bat.

Chet stares at him.

BUCK
It's alright, Dad. It scared the crap out of me, too.

He exits. Chet turns back to the mirror. Once again done in and humiliated by Roman.

207 EXT. CABIN. NIGHT. 207

A light goes on. We HEAR Chet inside.

CHET
Let's go! Move it out! It's five a.m. Fishing boat's shoving off in fifteen minutes. Rise and shine. Up and at 'em.

208 EXT. DOCK 208

Chet leads the drowsy parade down the dock to the boat.

ROMAN
How are the fish supposed to see the bait in the dark, Chet?

CHET
They smell it. Boy, you don't know your ass from a anchor when it comes to fishing, do you?

209 EXT. LAKE. NIGHT 209

It's pitch dark.

CHET
Alright! Bait your hooks!

BUCK
I can't see anything!

TB

204 INT. CABIN - NIGHT 204

Roman picks up a broken lamp.

ROMAN
Clocked the lamp.

CHET
There he is!

Chet takes a mighty swing. Misses. Roman takes a swat. Misses. Chet swings. He clears the kitchen table. CRASH!

ROMAN
Hit?

CHET
Miss!

Roman winds up and swings. Smacks the coffee table. The ashtray SHATTERS!

ROMAN
Shit!

Chet winds up and swings. Misses. The bat FLUTTERS back to Roman. He swings, misses, swings again, misses.

ROMAN
(continuing)
Come on, you bastard!

His swings are bringing him closer to Chet. He swings. Chet shrieks and ducks.

CHET
Watch it! Get back on your side!

Chet steps back. Roman swings. Chet screams.

CHET
(continuing)
He's on my face! Jesus! Shit!
He's on my face!

CLOSEUP - ROMAN

He grits his teeth and winds up.

ROMAN
Hold still!

TB

209 cont.

BEN
Dad? I'm having anxiety.

ROMAN
These are the biggest worms I've ever encountered.

CHET
Those aren't worms. They're leeches.

ROMAN
Jesus God!

We HEAR ROMAN GAG.

BUCK
I'm not touching leeches, Dad.

CHET
For Pete's sake! They don't bite.

BEN
No, they suck blood!

CHET
Quit being so squeamish! Do you hear Cara or Mara complaining?

ROMAN
Cara and Mara didn't come.

BEN
Dad? Will you do mine?

CHET
Ow! Watch the hooks! Ben!

BUCK
That's my hook, Dad.

CHET
Where's Ben's hook? OW! Where's the flashlight?

ROMAN
You owe me big for this one, Chet.

CHET
Where's the flashlight?

SPLASH!

TB

ROMAN
Maybe it's lonely for your ring.
(laughs)
Sorry, Chet.

CHET
I'm sure you are, Roman. Come on, you guys. Give me a leech.
(pause)
Oh, God!

BUCK
You alright, Dad?

CHET
No problem. Everybody have a leech?

ALL
Yes. Yep. Right...

CHET
On the count of three, insert your hooks. One, two...three!

A beat and a four way gag.

FADE DOWN

FADE UP

210 EXT. BEACH - MARINA. MORNING. 210

A large group of bathers are gathered on the beach. They're staring incredulously at some sight on the shoreline.

THEIR POV.

Chet's rowboat is washed up on the beach. Chet, Roman, Buck and Ben are sound asleep, snoring, covered with leeches. It starts to rain. The group wakes up.

211 EXT. MARINA DOCK - RAIN 211

The men are unloading the gear. The kids clamber out of the boat and head down the dock. Roman jumps out and ties off the boat. Chet climbs up on the dock.

TB

CHET
It being dark when we went out has nothing whatsoever to do with Wally not having the sense to tie his anchor to the line. I've never heard of such a thing. How was I to know that when I threw the anchor over, it wasn't tied to anything? Well, for his stupidity, he's out an anchor. I'll be damned if I buy him a new one.

Roman glares at him.

CHET
(continuing)
Why don't you go inside and have Kate look at that leech bite on your leg. I'll get this stuff. You relax a bit. We have a big afternoon ahead of us.

ROMAN
If we weren't related by marriage, Chet, I'd sue your dumb ass. I have a wife and kids who depend on me for support.

CHET
Roman, it was an accident. Nothing happened. We woke up on a beach.

ROMAN
What if we'd drifted the other way? Over the dam and we're dead.

CHET
I'm sorry.

ROMAN
You better get with the program, pal. Your wilderness fun is going over like a gangbang at the Vatican.

He storms down the dock. Chet hangs back feeling smaller and less significant than ever.

212 EXT. CABIN. MORNING - RAIN 212

It's dark and overcast. There's a CLAP OF THUNDER.

TB

212 EXT. CABIN - MORNING 212

It's dark and overcast. There's a clap of THUNDER. It's raining.

213 INT. CABIN - DAY (RAIN) 213

The family's sitting around the living room and kitchen, reading papers, drinking coffee. Ben's trying to get a station on the TV. Chet comes out of the bedroom.

CHET
Who wants to go over to Route Twelve and see Hitler's shoes?

There's no response.

CONNIE
Honey, it's pouring rain.

CHET
It'll break up.

ROMAN
Forecast calls for rain today, tonight and tomorrow.

CHET
I repeat, who wants to go over to Route Twelve and see Adolf Hitler's actual shoes? The ones he wore during the bombing of London. It's a bit of exciting history.

No response. Not even from the kids.

CHET
(continuing)
A whole roomful of sticks in the mud. The most evil man in modern time and not one of you cares.

He walks into the room with disgust and grabs a section of newspaper. He sits down and opens it.

214 EXT. CABIN - DAY - LATER 214

The rain continues.

215 INT. CABIN - CLOSEUP - CARDS - DAY 215

Connie's dealing herself solitaire.

215 CONTINUED: 215

CLOSEUP - CROSSWORD PUZZLE

Kate's working a crossword puzzle.

CLOSEUP - FINGERS

The bored fingers drum on the arm of a chair.

216 OMITTED 216

217 INT. CABIN - DAY 217

Everybody's in the same position as before, except slumped down a bit further. Even more lax and bored.

CHET
Anybody want to go to the lodge and get drunk and/or play video games?

Roman sighs and gets up. He walks into his room.

218 INT. BEDROOM - DAY 218

Roman dials a number on the cellular phone. He waits as it rings.

219 EXT. LODGE - DAY 219

Chet, Connie, Kate, Buck, Ben and the twins are huddled at the door of the lodge. They're covering themselves from the rain with newspaper and umbrellas.

EXT. LODGE - DAY

A sign on the door reads, "GONE TO THE DOCTOR. BE BACK LATER."

Buck is around the corner on a pay phone. He calls the drive-in.

A220 INT. DRIVE-IN - DAY A220

The cook answers the phone. Cammie refuses Buck's call.

TB

220 INT. CABIN - ROMAN'S BEDROOM - DAY 220

Roman's talking on the cellular phone.

ROMAN
Hello? Jerry? Roman. What's the word?
(pause)
Don't tell me that, Jerry. This is serious.

Roman's deeply disappointed. He sighs. A great look of worry passes over his face.

ROMAN
(continuing)
In other words, you can't help me? No way? Then I'm screwed. Thanks for nothing.

He disconnects the call. It's difficult to vent your anger on a cellular phone hang up. Roman squeezes the "END" button mightily.

A221 EXT. CABIN - DAY A221

The rain comes down. Lightning flashes.

221 INT. CABIN 221

The family's back in the living room. Nothing's any different than before except everyone's hair is wet.

ROMAN
Kate, you were right. We should have gone to Europe.

CHET

He glances angrily at Roman.

ROMAN

He flips playing cards on the table.

ROMAN
This is the worst.

He gets up and walks into the kitchen.

(CONTINUED)

221 CONTINUED: 221

CHET

He watches Roman walk into the kitchen.

CHET
Nobody forced you to come up, Roman.

Roman ignores Chet, further stoking Chet's temper.

CHET
(continuing)
In fact, I don't recall anybody inviting you.

ROMAN

He's at the refrigerator. He looks back at Chet. He's every bit as cranky as Chet.

ROMAN
And what's that supposed to mean, Chet?

CONNIE

She looks at Roman. Her temper's as short as everyone else's.

CONNIE
You know damn well what he means.

Kate shoots Connie an angry look.

KATE
(to Roman)
I think they're trying to say that we're not welcome.

Roman walks back into the living room.

ROMAN
Now it comes out. Interesting, huh, Katie?

KATE
Very.

ROMAN
We come up here, throw aside our own plans, come up here to help these dead asses learn how to enjoy themselves...

221 CONTINUED: (2) 221

CHET
You gotta be kidding!

ROMAN
Chester, you wouldn't know a good time if it walked up to you and yanked three times on your pecker.

BUCK AND BEN

They look at each other with surprise.

INT. LIVING ROOM

The parents glare angrily at each other.

CHET
You've got a lot of nerve, you know that, Roman?

ROMAN
It's served me well, Chester. I'm the one with the Mercedes.

CHET
Is it paid for?

ROMAN
Jealous, Chester?

CHET
You call me Chester one more time, Roman, you'll go home with a dent in your forehead.

KATE
(to Chet)
Ha! That'll be the day.

CHET
You want one to match his, Kate?

Buck intervenes.

BUCK
Dad? Take it easy, okay?

ROMAN
Thanks, Bucky.

(CONTINUED)

221 CONTINUED: (3) 221

BUCK
(to Roman)
Bite the Big One, Uncle Roman.

Buck sits down.

CONNIE
Don't talk to adults that way, Buck.

ROMAN
It's rude.

CONNIE
Blow it out your ass, Roman!

KATE
Roman, why don't we just get outta here?

ROMAN
Good idea.

They head for the bedroom.

CHET
(yells at the door)
Don't steal any of our stuff!

The bedroom door opens and Kate looks out.

KATE
What stuff is there to steal?!

CONNIE
We got stuff.

KATE
You're a louse!

CONNIE
Go find yourself a spin cycle!

Kate slams the door closed. Chet puts his arm around Connie. She's sputtering with anger.

CHET
Calm down, hon.

BEN
Dad?

(CONTINUED)

TB

221 CONTINUED: (4) 221

CHET
Yeah?

BEN
Does this mean we won't get a Christmas present from Uncle Roman?

BUCK
Blow it out your ass, Ben.

CONNIE
Nobody's blowing anything out their ass!

Connie feels badly that the kids are seeing such an ugly family event.

CONNIE
(continuing)
What's happening tonight doesn't mean that Daddy and I don't love Uncle Roman and Aunt kate. It just means...

CHET
I'd like to blow Roman out my ass.

CONNIE
I don't want to hear anymore about anyone blowing anything out their ass!

BEN
You may as well blow the whole family out your ass while you're at it, Dad!

She looks to Chet for help.

CHET
What Mom means... what we both mean...

BEN
Uncle Roman and Aunt Kate are incredible buttheads.

Connie and Chet look at each other. There's no point in lying.

CONNIE
Exactly.

TB

221B

221B Kate and Roman come back out of the bedroom.

ROMAN
One more thing you son of a bitch! About five years ago you borrowed my slide projector...

CHET
I gave it back.

ROMAN
Oh, really?

CONNIE
It didn't work.

CHET
Sounds like Roman!

ROMAN
How'd you like a bloody nose?

CHET
I dare you.

Roman draws his fists. Chet draws his.

Roman and Chet circle each other.

CHET
I'm ready, you bastard!

CONNIE
Chet! Stop it!
(to Kate)
Kate, if you have any sense, you'll get the hell out of here right now!

Kate pushes Connie into the kitchen.

KATE
You know, Connie, Mom was right. You are impossible to get along with.

CONNIE
Take that back!

KATE
I will not!

Connie draws her fists.

C.U. - Fist into camera.

TB

221C EXT. CABIN PORCH - LATER 221C

Chet's holding a handkerchief filled with ice against Connie's forehead.

CHET
She's got a mean jab, huh?

CONNIE
She's always been a dirty fighter.

Roman and Kate walk out loaded with luggage.

CHET
Well, you finally caught the hint, huh? You're leaving.

ROMAN
You wanna check our bags?

CHET
I don't care to embarrass you.

KATE
(to Connie)
Well, thank you for ruining our vacation.

CONNIE.
Thank you.

Kate and the twins hurry through the rain to the car. Roman holds back for a moment and glowers at Chet.

ROMAN
Since this may be the last time I have the pleasure of your company, there's something I want to say. Something I've always wanted to say.
(pause)
At Kate and my wedding reception, you and your brother were in the men's room. You weren't smart enough to look under the stalls for feet. But anyway, I heard you.

Chet swallows nervously as he tries to remember what he said. Tears gather in Roman's eyes.

ROMAN
(continuing)
You said to your brother that I was a slick, slimy hustler. I'll never forget it.

(continued)

TB

221C (contd)

He takes a deep breath and exits.

CONNIE AND CHET

She looks at Chet. He feels terrible.

BEN AND BUCK

They're standing in the door. They feel almost as bad.

EXT. CABIN PORCH

Chet sighs. He doesn't know what to do. He looks at Connie apologetically. She understands and pats him on the back.

ROMAN

He's standing stock still in the rain. He turns.

ROMAN
Chet? You were right. You were dead on. I am slimy. I am a hustler. The Mercedes is on a lease I can't pay, I'm losing the house. I'm broke.

CHET AND CONNIE

omit 222-229

They're stunned.

230 INT. LIVING ROOM - LATER - NIGHT 230

Roman and Chet are drinking and talking.

ROMAN
I was the world's worst commodities trader. I lost my ass. And my sister's ass. Chet, I'm a loser. It's all show. My whole life's been for show. All flash, no substance.

Chet looks away from Roman to the fireplace. He feels embarrassed for Roman and knows how painful it is for him to make this admission.

ROMAN
(continuing)
I'm a phony, Chet. From my fifteen dollar counterfeit Bally slip-ons to...

CHET
Well, jeez, Roman, I mean you've got some problems, sure, but you've got Kate.

(continued)

Roman looks around at Chet with a bitter smirk. 230 (contd)

ROMAN
Oh, yeah?

230A

230A INT. BEDROOM

Kate and Connie are having a similar heart-to-heart.

KATE
Roman and I haven't had sex in nine years. He literally makes me sick to my stomach. I've seen doctors...

Connie bows her head.

KATE
(continuing)
We may as well be divorced.

CONNIE
You put up a pretty good front, Kate. Are you sure...

KATE
That's it. It's a front. It's the only thing that keeps us from clawing each other's eyes out.

CONNIE
You honestly don't like him?

KATE
Do you?

CONNIE
Well...

Kate toys with the ice cubes in her tumbler.

KATE
You know why I married Roman?

CONNIE
You were pregnant?

KATE
He told you?

230B INT. LODGE. BAR

230B

Reg is at the bar nursing a bar. A sudden feeling of dread overtakes him. His eyes open wide in fear. A storm's coming. He bolts off his bar stool.

TB

230C EXT. LODGE 230C

Reg burst out of the lodge and heads for the hills.

230D INT. CABIN. LIVING ROOM 230D

The front door blows open. A flash of lightning and a CLAP OF THUNDER. Roman and Chet leap from their seats. Chet rushes the door. Another flash of lightning and a LOUDER CLAP OF THUNDER. Chet slams the door shut and the cabin falls dark.

230E INT. BEDROOM 230E

Connie and Kate are in the dark.

CONNIE
What happened?

230F INT. LIVING ROOM 230F

It's dark. Connie and Kate scramble down the stairs followed by Buck and Ben. Chet is rummaging around in the kitchen.

CHET
Where's the flashlight?

BUCK
What happened to the lights?!

CONNIE
Chet?

ROMAN
We lost power.

CHET
I told you kids not to fool around with the flashlight.

ROMAN
You dropped the flashlight in the lake.

CHET
That was the big one. I had another.

BEN
The last I saw the little one, you were using it to make monster faces.

Ben's right. Chet quickly moves to protect his dignity.

(continued)

TB

230F (contd)

CHET
Don't be ridiculous. Obviously someone's lost it and now when we need it, it's gone. Damn it!

Roman flicks his Tiffany lighter. It doesn't ignite.

ROMAN
Son of a bitch! $110 for a lighter and it doesn't work.

Chet flicks his Bic.

CHET
79¢
(to Connie)
Do we have any candles?

CONNIE
Did I bring any? Probably. I always pack candles when we travel.

Chet glares at her. Another flash of lightning and the accompanying CLAP OF THUNDER. Chet's lighter goes out. It's completely dark. A beat and the lighter sparks. A fire follows and by the light of it we see that Chet has set fire to a rolled sheet of newspaper. He crosses to the fireplace, lights a stick of kindling off the paper and tosses it in the fireplace. Roman's on the phone.

ROMAN
Phone's dead.

Connie's at the window.

CONNIE
I don't see any lights anywhere.

BEN
In all likelihood lightning hit a sub-station.

CHET
It's alright. We'll get a nice fire going here.

ROMAN
It's raining to beat all hell out there.

CHET
I guess we're in one of the storms this place is famous for. It's sort of exciting, isn't it? We're getting a taste of real wilderness now. Devoid of any modern conveniences, at the mercy of the elements.

(continued)

TB

230F (contd)

A drop of water lands on his shoulder. He looks up. Another drop. Then another.

CU. KATE

She's looking around the room. A sense of doom on her face.

KATE
Where are the girls? Roman?

CU. ROMAN

A flash of fear.

CU. CONNIE

Looks to Chet. Worried.

CU. CHET

The pioneer smile fades.

INT. ROOM

Kate dashes for the stairs.

KATE
Cara! Mara!

Roman follows here.

230G

230G INT. BEDROOM

Kate throws the door open.

HER POV

The window is open. The curtains are blowing. Rain is spilling in.

CU. KATE

She screams.

TB

OMIT 231,232, 233

Kate's on the porch, looking. Roman, Chet and Connie follow her out. 233A

ROMAN
Cara! Mara!

KATE
Girls!

CHET
Maybe they ran over to the lodge.

ROMAN
CARA! MARA!

He runs down off the porch.

TB

233B INT. LODGE 233B

Roman and Chet look in the lodge. Roman's hopeful expression fades.

CHET
Let's look down at the lake. Maybe they're looking for frogs of something.

ROMAN
Or something?

CHET
It's alright, Roman. It hasn't even been ten minutes. Nothing's wrong.

Roman exits. Chet follows.

233C EXT. MINE SHAFT 233C

The twins are at the mouth of the shaft.

233D

233D EXT. LAKE

No girls.

ROMAN AND CHET

At the shore. Roman's getting terribly worried.

CHET
We'll spread out and check the woods.

ROMAN
CARA! MARA! Damn it!

He turns and heads back to the house.

233E EXT. MINE SHAFT 233E

Cara and Mara are at the mouth of the shaft, looking in. They shine the flashlight into the shaft. They go foreward to have a look.

CU. FEET

The soft earth gives way and the girls tumble into the shaft.

(continued)

TB

233E INT. SHAFT

233E (contd)

The girls fly down the wet, muddy tunnel, screaming.

233F

233F INT. CAVERN

The shaft opens into a dark, dank cavern. The girls splash down. The flashlight goes flying.

INT. CAVERN. FLOOR

The flashlight they were carrying splashes down the wet floor. The beam comes to rest on a stack of boxes.

CU. BOXES

Stacked cartons of dynamite. The cartons are waxy and moist with nitro. Blasting caps are scattered on the floor. Broken cases have spilled sticks of dynamite.

33G EXT. WOODS

233G

Chet and Roman march through the woods, calling for the girls.

CHET

CARA! MARA!

ROMAN

CARA! MARA!

233H

233H EXT. CABIN. PORCH

Kate and Connie are calling from the porch.

233J

233J INT. CAVE. SHAFT

Rain water is spilling down the shaft.

233K

233K INT. CAVE. CARA AND MARA

They are sitting atop the dynamite boxes to avoid the water filling the cavern. They're frightened, clinging to each other.

CU. BOX

Dynamite. Water level rising.

233L EXT. WOODS

233L

Chet and Roman are charging through the woods. Roman leads, Chet follows.

233M

233M CU. WATER

Flowing rapidly down the shaft.

CU. CARA AND MARA

Terrified. Wet and muddy and cold.

233N

233N EXT. MINE PERIMETER

Roman and Chet reach the mine perimeter. Roman steps on the barbed wire, holding it down for Chet. He steps over it, then gives Roman a hand.

EXT. MINE. SHAFT

Roman and Chet call for the girls.

ROMAN
CARA! MARA!

233P

233P CU. CARA AND MARA

They hear Roman. They look up. A longing for their father that we've yet to see.

233Q EXT. WOODS 233O

Chet and Roman continue to call for the girls.

CHET
GIRLS!

Chet looks around behind him and spots the shaft. He pokes Roman and points. They approach.

233R

233R INT. CAVE. CARA AND MARA

They make a move to get down off the box. It's unstable.

CU. BOX

Oozes with the shifting weight.

233S EXT. MINE SHAFT 233S

Roman and Chet look into the hole.

ROMAN
CARA! MARA!

Chet grabs his arm.

CHET
Listen!

TB

233S (contd)

They listen and hear the faint cries of the girls. Roman looks at Chet with horror.

CHET
They're down there. GIRLS! This Uncle Chet! Are you alright?

ROMAN
They won't answer for Christ's sake. You gotta go down there.

CHET
Roman. I can't fit down there.

ROMAN
I'm claustrophobic. What if I lose it?

CHET
You won't lose it.

ROMAN
What if I blow it? What do we do? I gotta call somebody. We gotta get help.

Chet grabs Roman firmly.

CHET
Roman. You'll do it. They're your children.

ROMAN
That's why I'm afraid.

CHET
And that's why you can do it. Goddamn it, be a father, Roman! For once be their father.

Roman takes a deep, troubled breath. He's a nervous mess.

CHET
You got alot of strength and you can find more. You only think you're no good. I don't think so, and nobody else does either.
(pause)
Get down there with the girls, I'll go get some rope and a light.

ROMAN
Alright.

(continued)

233S (contd)

CHET
YOU GUYS HANG ON! YOUR DAD'S COMING!

He lowers himself into the shaft.

CHET
Got it?

Roman nods.

CHET
Let fly.

Roman scoots down the shaft.

CHET
I'm on my way!

Chet takes off.

233T

233T INT. CAVE

Roman splashes down in the cavern.

233U

233U EXT. WOODS

Chet hauls ass through the woods.

233V

233V INT. CAVE

Roman wades over to the girls. They reach out for him.

CARA
Daddy!

MARA
Daddy!

CU. ROMAN

He rushes to them and grabs them. The first time he's ever held them with genuine, connected emotion. They cling to him.

234 OMIT

234A EXT. CABIN

234A

Chet barrels through the brush for the cabin.

234B EXT. PORCH

234B

Kate leaps back to Connie.

KATE
It's a bear!

TB

234B (contd)

CONNIE
It's Chet!

Chet whips around the front of the cabin and leaps up on the porch.

CHET
It's alright! We found them. Sit tight. I'm getting a rope and a light and I'm going back.

CONNIE
What happened?

KATE
Where are they?

CHET
It's okay. Relax, Roman and I have the situation well in hand.
(pause)
Roman's great!

He turns and charges down the steps and is gone.

234C INT. CAVE 234C

Roman has broken his embrace with the girls.

ROMAN
CHET!

He waits.

ROMAN
CHET?
(to the girls)
Uncle Chet went to get a rope and a light.

234D INT. TOOL SHED 234D

Chet's in the shed ripping through the mess of equipment, tools and debris. He's rushed, nervous and furious.

CHET
GODDAMN, WALLY! ALL THIS SHIT!

234E INT. CAVE 234E

Roman's examining the boxes.

(continued)

234E (contd)

ROMAN
Holy hell in a whore house! This is dynamite! Old, wet, wild, unpredictable, unstable, ready to blow...
(realizes what he's saying)
It's fine, girls. No sweat. The worst case, it'll smell bad.
(yells)
RIPLEY!

234F

234F INT. SHED

Chet's knee deep in worthless rubbish.

234G

234G INT. CAVE

Roman's examining a blasting cap.

ROMAN
Blasting caps...

He looks to the mouth of the shaft.

HIS POV

The water's spilling down.

CU. ROMAN

He's scared. It's time to vacate.

INT. CAVE

Roman reassures his grip on the girls.

ROMAN
Okay, it's cold and wet and I don't want you catching cold so, we're gonna go. Okay?

They girls nods.

ROMAN
You hold on to me as tight as you can, okay? Promise?

The girls nods and affirm their hold on him.

ROMAN
Okay? Let's go.

He carries them through the water. As he CLEARS FRAME. A massive figure rises behind him. We recognize it as the BEAR FROM CHET'S STORY. BALD, OLD AND UGLY.

234H

234H INT. SHED

Chet's in a full-blown tantrum. Flinging rubbish and everywhere. He uncovers an old Coleman lamp. Looks at it, sets it aside.

CHET
We got big time jeopardy and this son of a bitch can't organize his tool shed!

He sets the lamp aside and continues rummaging for a rope.

234J INT. CAVE 234J

Roman has reached the mouth of the shaft. He looks and thinks for a moment.

ROMAN
I'm gonna get down on my stomach and we're gonna crawl up. You guys hold on as tight as you can.

He kneels into the rush of water and repositions the girls on his back. He looks for something to grab a hold of. He reaches out and grabs a fragment of broken timber. He pulls himself and the girls forward. Holds himself for a beat and reaches for another timber and pulls himself up another short distance.

CU. BEAR

Watching.

234K INT. TOOL SHED. CHET 234K

He flings a bunch of Christmas decorations aside. A thought suddenly occurs to him.

CHET
Boat! Rope! Yo!

He bashes his way through the rubbish and out of the shed.

234L EXT. WALLY'S CABIN 234L

A light goes on.

EXT. WINDOW

Wally's head appears in the window.

WALLY
(to Juanita [oc]
Bears! Go unplug my gun!

TB

234M INT. CAVE 234M

Roman continues to pull himself up the shaft, slowly and with enormous effort. He nearly loses his grip, regains it, loses it and slides back, catching himself quickly and starting anew.

234N EXT. WOODS 234N

Chet flies through the woods.

CHET
Ouch! Jesus! Raspberry bushes! Goddamn! Ouch! Shit!

234P INT. CAVE 234P

Roman plows on. He's exhausted but moving with undiminished purpose. He's moving faster as the beams nearer the opening are closer together and unbroken.

234Q EXT. BOAT 234Q

Chet stumbles into the boat, nearly upends it, catches his balance and scoops up a length of rope. He turns and steadies himself to jump out of the boat onto the dock. He gets into the rocking rhythm of the boat, picks his moment and jumps. His forward momentum pushes the boat back and lands on his belly on the dock. The boat continues to move back leaving Chet with half his body on the boat, half on the dock. He tries to pull the boat back with his feet. It eases back and he flips himself off the dock, back into the boat.

234R EXT. CAVE 234R

Roman emerges from the mouth of the cave. He pulls the girls off his back and onto the level ground. Then he pulls himself out of the shaft and rolls over on his back, exhausted. But smiling. The girls reach down and try to help him up.

ROMAN
We did it, huh?

CARA
Yep!

MARA
Can we do that again tomorrow?

Roman laughs.

(continued)

TB

ROMAN 234R (contd)
Not a chance. We'll do something else. Let's get back to the house. Mom's probably scared to death.

CARA
Where's Uncle Chet?

234S

234S EXT. SHORE

The boat grinds up onto the beach. All the way. Chet leaps out onto dry ground and takes off into the woods.

234T EXT. WOODS

234T

Roman carries the girls through the woods.

ROMAN
We're going to keep talking and opening up, aren't we?

CARA
Oh, yeah. We were just afraid.

ROMAN
Of what?

MARA
That you might get mad.

ROMAN
I wouldn't get mad.

234U

234U EXT. WOODS

Wally and Juanita are tiptoeing through the woods.

WALLY
There's something moving out there!

JUANTIA
Yep! Bear!

234V

234V EXT. WOODS

Chet's hauls ass back through the woods with the rope and the light.

CHET 235 OMIT
Ouch! Goddamn! Shit! Ouch!

235A

235A EXT. CABIN

Roman with the girls in his arms comes around the cabin to the porch. Kate runs down from the porch to meet them.

(continued)

235A (contd)

Connie follows at a respectable distance. Kate grabs the girls from Roman, sets them down and embarces both of them.

CARA
Daddy saved us!

MARA
And he never said any bad words doing it, either!

Kate looks up at Roman proudly. He smiles, as proud of himself as she is of him.

ROMAN
When I learn a lesson, I learn it big and full-blown.

235B EXT. MINE PERIMETER 235B

Chet's trying to get over the barbed wire. He's nearly made it, swings his leg ever so carefully over the wire, plants a foot firmly on the other side. Brings the other leg over and plants it. Takes a step, catches his pant leg and goes down on his face.

235C INT. SHED 235C

Wally and Juanita looking at the mess in the shed.

WALLY
Bear!

235D INT. MINE SHAFT 235D

The bear wades through the water to the mouth of the shaft.

235E EXT. MINE SHAFT 235E

Chet leans into the hole.

CHET
I'M BACK!

235F CU. BEAR 235F

Looks up the shaft.

235G CU. CHET 235G

Cups his hand to his mouth.

CHET
I'M GOING TO THROW THE ROPE DOWN! I'VE MADE A LOOP AT THE END PUT IT AROUND ONE OF THE GIRLS.

(continued)

TB

235G (contd)

EXT. MINE SHAFT

Chet tossess the looped rope down the shaft.

235H

235H CU. BEAR

The rope lands on it's head.

235J

235J CU. CHET

He pulls the rope in.

235K

235K CU. BEAR

The slack is taken up, leaving the bear with the loop around it's neck.

235L

235L EXT. MINE SHAFT

Chet leans into the shaft.

CHET
ROMAN! I'M GONNA PULL THE ROPE TIGHT. YOU TELL ME WHEN, OKAY?

We HEAR A GRUNT FROM BELOW. Chet takes it as a signal that Roman's gotten the message. He gives yank on the rope.

235M

235M CU. BEAR

The rope is pulled tight around it's neck and it's pulled forward, off it's feet.

235N

235N EXT. MINE SHAFT

Chet tugs the rope.

CHET
ALRIGHT! I'M PULLING!

He pulls on the rope. It barely moves.

CHET
Shit! They're all coming up at once.

He turns around and lays the rope across his shoulder. He leans into the task.

235P

235P INT. SHAFT

The bear jerks up the shaft. It's struggling to get free of the rope around it's neck.

TB

235Q EXT. MINE SHAFT

Chet's barely able to pull the weight. He eases over to a tree and gets around. He continues to pull, now heading for the mouth of the shaft, using the tree.

235R

235R INT. SHAFT

THe bear is being pulled up the shaft.

235S

235S CU. CHET

He's grunting and sweating and pulling with all his might.

235T

235T INT. CABIN

Kate and Connie are drying the kids off. It's warm, joyous reunion.

ROMAN
Your Uncle Chet wanted us to have memories. We got some memories, huh? Was that an adventure? Huh?

CONNIE
Where is Chet?

ROMAN
He's out there being a pretty guy. I feel like the last slice of bread on the loaf compared to him. He's waiting out there so I could come back looking like a hero. Well, you know the truth? He's the hero. He's the brains behind the operation.

235U

235U CU. BEAR

Being pulled up the shaft.

235V

235V CU. CHET

Straining for all he's worth.

EXT. MOUTH OF THE SHAFT

Chet reaches the shaft as the bear emerges. One last tug and the full length of the bear pops out of the shaft. Chet drops to his knees, exhausted. His chest heaves mightily.

CHET
God, bless! I did it! Oh, I'm dying but we...

He looks up.

(continued)

235V (contd)

HIS POV

The big, black, shiny nose of the bear. The very angry bear.

CU. CHET

A look of confusion. His eyes shift, up.

CU. BEAR

CAMERA PANS UP TO THE BALD HEAD.

CU. CHET

He stares in disbelief.

CHET
I died and I'm in my own story. Or...

236 OMIT

236A

236A EXT. WOOD

We HEAR A BELLOW. A beat and Chet tears past. A split second behind him, the bear charges through.

EXT. WOODS. WIDE

The silhouette of Chet hauling through the brush with the bear nipping at his heels.

CHET
OUCH! DAMN! SHIT!

BEAR
OOO! OOO!

236B

236B INT. CABIN

Kate and Connie are finished drying off the girls.

ROMAN
Why don't you guys run up and get your jams on. I'm gonna throw on a package of dogs for your uncle.

KATE
I'll do it, you go change.

ROMAN
I want to be here when Chet comes back. I owe him big for this one.

TB

236C EXT. WOODS. CHET 236C

He's moving like he never thought possible. Arms pumping, eyes wild with fear, sweating pouring off his face and body.

236D EXT. CABIN 236D

Chet wheels around the cabin and leaps up on the porch. The bear's a beat behind.

236E INT. CABIN 236E

Chet bursts into the cabin. He slams the door behind him and leans back against it.

INT. LIVING ROOM

The kids are on the stairs. Connie and Kate in the kitchen. Roman's at the fireplace. They're stunned by the entrance.

INT. CABIN. DOOR

Chet screams.

CHET

Bear!

No sooner are the words out of his mouth than the door is torn off it's hinges. Chet topples forward and the bear charges into the cabin.

CU. ROMAN

Horror. He ducks.

CU. KATE AND CONNIE

They scream.

CU. TWINS

They shriek and charge up the stairs.

INT. LIVING ROOM

The bear crashes into the table and splinters it.

CU. ROMAN

He dashes for the stairs to block the bear from the stairs.

(continued)

TB

ROMAN
(to the girls)
RUN!
(to the women)
DUCK!
(to the bear)
KISS MY ASS, YOU BERRY EATING, TURD FLINGER!

He dashes for the stairs. The bear lunges at him.

CHET

He stands up, pushing the door back in place. A beat and he goes down again as Wally charges in with his shotgun lamp. He trains it on the bear.

WALLY
FREEZE!

CU. BEAR

It looks back at Wally.

CU. CHET

Wallys on the door, on top of Chet.

CHET
GET OFF ME!

CU. WALLY

He looks down. He steps down off the door.

CU. BEAR

He takes a step toward Wally.

INT. LIVING ROOM

Chet stands up.

CHET
You're a real asshole, Wally.

WALLY
Out the way, Ripley!

CHET
(pushing the lamp away)
Get that out of my face!

(continued)

TB

CU. ROMAN

He tries to distract the bear.

CU. BEAR

It looks back at Roman.

CU. CHET AND WALLY

He doesn't know what's going on. Wally has the lamp on the bear.

CHET
What the hell is going on...
(turns to see the bear)
Whoa!
(to Wally)
SHOOT, YOU MORON!

CU. BEAR

The bear turns to Chet.

CU. WALLY AND CHET

Wally lowers the gun.

WALLY
It's illegal to use a shotgun on bear, Ripley.

CHET
That's a goddamn lamp!

He rips the lamp from Wally's hands, tears the shade off, aims it at the bear. Wally covers his ears.

CU. ROMAN

He hits the desk.

CU. BEAR

It rises on it's back legs.

CU. CHET

Takes aim and squeezes the trigger. There's a loud fizzle and a puff of smoke. Chet lowers the gun.

CU. BEAR

He turns to Roman.

(continued)

236E (contd)

CU. ROMAN

He covers his head, expecting to lose it.

CU. BEAR

He drops onto Roman.

CU. CHET

He looks into the barrel of the gun. It's still fizzling. He turns it back to the bear and tries to open it.

CU. SHOTGUN BARREL

The gun fires.

CU. BEAR'S ASS

Fur goes flying.

CU. BEAR

WHOA!

INT. LIVING ROOM

The bear turns and charges the door. Chet and Wally leap out of the way.

236F EXT. CABIN 236F

The bear charges down the porch and into the woods.

236G INT. LIVING ROOM 236G

The aftermath. Wally, Chet, Roman, Connie and Kate rise up.

WALLY
You gave her a bald ass to go with her bald head, Ripley!

Chet looks at the gun.

ROMAN
That was great, Chet! I wish I had my videocamera.

CHET
Did one shell go or...

236H

236H EXT. CABIN

BLAM!

(continued)

TB

ROMAN (OC) 236H (con·

Two.

236J EXT. MINE SHAFT 236J

Chet's lamp is at the mouth of the shaft.

CU. LAMP

Kerosine is leaking out and running down the shaft. It ignites.

236K INT. SHAFT 236K

The flame follows the stream of kerosine into the shaft.

236L EXT. SHAFT 236L

A beat and an subterranean explosion. A ball of flame blows out of the shaft.

236M INT. CABIN 236M

The rumble is felt in the cabin.

ROMAN

Dynamite!

236N EXT. LAKE. OVERHEAD 236N

A massive bubble rises from the lake.

EXT. LAKE. SURFACE

It erupts, sending a shaft of water, weeds and fish into the night sky.

236P EXT. CABIN 236P

A shower of perch, bass, weeds, crappie and water down on the cabin. It's raining fish.

INT. CHET'S JEEP

LOOKING OUT THE WINDSHIELD. A gigantic fish, Monster Mouth lands on the hood of Chet's Jeep with a WHAP!

OMIT Scenes 237-269

TB

270 EXT. CABIN - NEXT DAY 270

The cars are loaded and packed. It's time to shove off. The two families come out of the cabin. Chet locks up the door.

CHET
Alright! Let's roll.

Cammie comes up the road. Buck crosses to her.

ROMAN
Well, I'm gonna miss this place, Chet.

Chet looks at him like he's crazy.

CARA
Uncle Chet?

CHET
Yeah, honey?

CARA
I had a really good time.

CHET
I'm glad you liked it.

BEN
Isn't it fascinating how a trauma can restructure a person's life?

CHET
That's enough, Ben.

MARA
Thanks, Uncle Chet.

CHET
Don't forget to thank your daddy.

271 EXT. CABIN - DAY 271

Buck's lonely and dejected. Everything's gone to hell for him. He looks at the lake.

BUCK

He curls his lip at the beautiful scene.

BUCK
If you're out there, I just want you to know I don't blame you for hating me.

CAMMIE (O.S.)
City boys always talk to themselves?

Buck stops cold. He turns.

HIS POV

Cammie steps out from behind a tree.

CAMMIE
Or are you crazy?

BUCK

He's shocked to see Cammie. He smiles.

BUCK
I must be crazy.

CAMMIE

She smiles and walks toward him.

CAMMIE
That's your guilty mind at work. Whenever you go out in the woods, you're gonna see me behind every tree. I'll haunt you the rest of your life and possibly a large portion of your afterlife.

BUCK

He walks toward her.

(CONTINUED)

271 CONTINUED: 271

BUCK
I'm really sorry. I was trapped.

Cammie and Buck come together.

CAMMIE
I want you to go back to Chicago a crazed, lovesick maniac and not be able to look at another girl without comparing her to me.

BUCK
And?

CAMMIE
We'll never see each other again. But we'll stay a little bit in love with each other the rest of our lives. I'll have a little piece of you in my heart forever.

BUCK
And I'll have a little piece of you.

She kisses him.

272 EXT. CABIN - CHET'S CAR 272

Roman helps Chet tie down the luggage on the roof rack.

EXT. CABIN - ROAD

Wally and Juanita waddle up the road.

WALLY
Skipping on your bill, Ripley?

CHET AND ROMAN

Chet smiles.

CHET
Wouldn't think of it.

Wally and Juanita walk up.

WALLY
Just tickling your gonadial spheres a little, Ripley.
(MORE)

272 CONTINUED: 272

WALLY (CONT'D)
I spoke with the conservation department a few minutes ago and they said the bear's doing alright. She lost most of the hair off her ass. She's bald on both ends now but she'll be alright.

CHET
I can't say that I'm happy.

WALLY
What're you carping about? The cabin she tore up belongs to me.

JUANITA
And my good lamp's all blown up.

ROMAN
How the hell did you know we had a bear in the cabin?

WALLY
She come by my place first. I thought it was Juanita gone nuts wearing her fur coat out to empty the rubbish. So, I just tracked her over here.
(pause)
Anywho, we sure want to thank you and Roman here for turning over the fish to us. It's gonna look swell hanging in the lodge.

ROMAN
Our mutual pleasure, Wally.

WALLY
I went in and scooped his guts out so he wouldn't stink so bad on the ride over to the fish stuffer. And funny damn thing, when 'Nita split open his belly to see what he had for lunch...

JUANITA
Eleven perch and a Pepsi can.

WALLY
Yeah. We figure you were entitled to any valuables the thing was carrying.
(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

TB

272 CONTINUED: (2) 272

WALLY (CONT'D)
A lot of times that brand of fish'll be attracted to something shiney.

A thought occurs to Chet. He has an inkling of what it might be.

WALLY
(continuing)
We've found 'em carrying a watch...

JUANITA
... A belt buckle...

WALLY
... Earrings.

Chet looks at Roman. He smiles.

CHET
Wally? A few nights back I dropped my father's ring in the lake.

WALLY
Sorry to hear that, Ripley. Maybe what I got in my hand'll make you feel a little better.

Chet takes Wally's hand.

CHET
I have a funny feeling I know what it is.

CLOSEUP - HANDS

Wally's hand opens. Lying in his palm is a quarter.

273 BUCK AND CAMMIE 273

He kisses her cheek and backs away. He gives her a little wave. She returns it.

274 EXT. CABIN - CARS - DAY 274

The twins are in the Mercedes. Kate and Chet embrace. Roman and Connie. Ben gets in the back of the wagon.

(CONTINUED)

274 CONTINUED: 274

Wally and Juanita get their hands in on the farewells. Connie and Kate embrace. Chet and Roman shake hands.

CHET
I want to spot you the money you need to keep the house and get back on your feet.

ROMAN
I can't take your money, Chet. But I appreciate the offer.

CHET
I insist.

ROMAN
Chet, listen to me. I don't borrow from relatives. Not now, not ever. Okay? Let me learn my lesson.

He pats Chet on the back.

ROMAN
(continuing)
Race you home!

He and Kate hurry to their car. He guns the ENGINE and fishtails down the dirt road. Chet is baffled by it all.

CHET
Race me home?

He looks at Connie.

CONNIE
It's just until he gets on his feet. I think you should be proud of him not wanting to take your loan.

CHET
Connie...

CONNIE
We have plenty of room.
(hopeful smile)
If he beats us, he'll take the good spot in the garage.

She gets in the car. Buck walks up. Chet gives him a big smile.

(CONTINUED)

274 CONTINUED: (2) 274

BUCK
Dad?

CHET
Yeah?

Buck holds out his hand.

BUCK
To the memories.

Chet smiles. He slaps Buck's hand. FREEZE AND FADE.

END TITLES OVER ROMAN'S VIDEO-8 FOOTAGE OF THE TRIP.

THE END